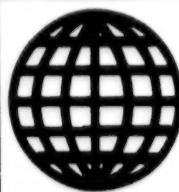


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26 MARCH 1992



**FOREIGN
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JPRS Report

Near East & South Asia

IRAN

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CONTENTS

26 March 1992

POLITICAL

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Zionist Aggression, Lack of UN Action Deplored [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 23 Feb]	1
Terms of U.S. Loan To Israel Viewed [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 2 Mar]	1
Value of Imports From U.S. Imports Reach 1 Billion [London KEYHAN 30 Jan]	2
Editorial Criticizes NATO's Manfred Woerner [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 27 Feb]	2
Agricultural, Technical Memo Signed With Brazil [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 23 Feb]	2
Republic Is Austria's Third Commercial Trading Partner [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 26 Feb]	3
Agricultural Cooperation With Spain Viewed [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 27 Feb]	3
Domestically Produced Car Parts Exported to Europe [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 26 Feb]	3
Fiat Truck Assembly Plant To Begin Operations [ABRAR 5 Jan]	3
Domestically Made Trucks Exported to Russia [KEYHAN-I HAVA'I 11 Mar]	4
Volume of Trade With Sudan to Reach \$300 Million [SALAM 16 Jan]	4

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

ECO Conference Conducted Amid Sharp Differences [London KEYHAN 20 Feb]	4
Paper Views Arab-Israeli Peace Talks With Skepticism [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 25 Feb]	5
Tehran To Distance Itself From Afghan Radicals [London KEYHAN 4 Mar]	6
Bahrain Interested in Regional Common Market [KEYHAN-I HAVA'I 11 Mar]	6
Barzani Apologizes for Erroneous Bombing Slur [KEYHAN-I HAVA'I 11 Mar]	6
Agreement Reached With Pakistan in Health Care [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 1 Mar]	7
Republic Fourth Exporter of Goods to Qatar [SALAM 5 Jan]	7
Mazandaran Fruits Exported to Turkmenia [London KEYHAN 30 Jan]	7
Persian New Year To Be Celebrated in Tajikistan [London KEYHAN 30 Jan]	8
Displeasure Registered With Turkmenia [London KEYHAN 30 Jan]	8

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Deputy on Demonstrations in Khuzestan [London KEYHAN 9 Jan]	8
Radicals Said To Create 'Unsafe' Investment Scene [London KEYHAN 30 Jan]	8
Economic, Industrial Cooperation Planned With Kazakhstan [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 29 Feb]	9
Regulation for Islamic Establishments Detailed [ABRAR 2 Jan]	9
Khorasan Area Law Enforcement Commanders Named [ABRAR 22 Jan]	10
New Regulations for Turning over Passports Announced [SALAM 21 Jan]	10
Moqtada'i on Need To Shorten Legal Procedures [SALAM 15 Jan]	11
Regulations Needed To Protect Natural Resources [ABRAR 23 Jan]	11
Several Clergy Elevated to Rank of Ayatollah [London KEYHAN 30 Jan]	11
Tax Discount Regulations for Azadegan Announced [SALAM 6 Jan]	12
Tehran Law Enforcement Operation Detailed [SALAM 8 Jan]	12
New Office Headed by Woman Advising Rafsanjani [London KEYHAN 9 Jan]	12
Freedom Movement Office Returned to Proprietor [London KEYHAN 9 Jan]	13
Efforts To Merge Army, Pasdaran Resume [London KEYHAN 30 Jan]	13
Thousands of Pasdars Transferred to Law Enforcement [SALAM 30 Jan]	14
Pasdaran Programs Announced During Dawn Days [SALAM 30 Jan]	14
Forces Reportedly Dissatisfied With Merge [London KEYHAN 20 Feb]	14

ECONOMIC

Foreign Exchange Provisions for Students Increase [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 4 Mar]	16
President Inaugurates Giant Sugar Cane Project [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 29 Feb]	16

Rafsanjani Inaugurates Karkhah Dam Construction	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 27 Feb]	16
Volume of Investment in Kish To Exceed 3 Trillion	[SALAM 9 Jan]	17
Food Prices Reported Steadily Increasing in Mazandaran	[SALAM 23 Jan]	17
First Phase of Repairs on Offshore Rigs Completed	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 25 Feb]	18
Indigenous Oil Drilling Machine Put Into Operation	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 29 Feb]	18
Gas Exports To Double, Says Official	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 25 Feb]	18
Al-Mehdi Aluminum Complex Inaugurated	[SALAM 7 Jan]	18
One-Third of Factory Stocks Transferred to Workers	[SALAM 18 Jan]	19
Bandar 'Abbas Aluminum Complex Construction Begins	[ABRAR 22 Jan]	19
Phosphate Deposits Estimated at 456 Million Tons	[SALAM 14 Jan]	19
Lowshan 360-Megawatt Power Plant Operational	[SALAM 14 Jan]	20
Over 46 Percent of Northern Forests Destroyed	London KEYHAN 27 Feb	20
Sewage Complex in 20 Large Cities	[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 4 Mar]	20
Energy Ministry To Construct 70 Dams	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 2 Mar]	21
Country's Largest Fertilizer Plant to Be Constructed	[SALAM 15 Jan]	21
Housing Said To Consume 35 Percent of Family Spending	[SALAM 29 Jan]	21
First Housing Unit Factory Inaugurated in Hamadan	[SALAM 23 Jan]	22
Metro Lines to Become Operational in Three Years	[London KEYHAN 12 Mar]	23
New Airport Tariffs for Various Cars Announced	[London KEYHAN 12 Mar]	23
Rafsanjan Airport Begins Operations	[ABRAR 23 Jan]	24
Abadan Airport To Handle International Flights	[ABRAR 25 Jan]	24

MILITARY

Tasking Armed Forces With Reconstruction Lauded	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 29 Feb]	25
Air Force Equipped With Russian Fighter Planes	[London KEYHAN 20 Feb]	25

SOCIAL

Garbage Heaps Threaten Health in Yasuj	[ABRAR 6 Jan]	26
Officials View Establishment of Industrial University	[ABRAR 26 Jan]	26
Over Billion Rials Appropriated for Treatment Units	[SALAM 4 Feb]	26
Difficulties of Service Complexes Examined	[SALAM 15 Jan]	26
Water Pollution Threatens Health in Karand-e Gharb	[ABRAR 22 Jan]	27
Measures Needed To Counter Air Pollution Dangers	[ABRAR 6 Jan]	27
Hygiene, Treatment, Consultation Center Inaugurated	[SALAM 16 Jan]	27
Mass Marriage Ceremony Way to Keep Cost Low	[London KEYHAN 4 Mar]	28
IRNA To Set Up Office in Baku	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 29 Feb]	28
Agreement Signed To Promote Persian Language	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 22 Feb]	28
Hundreds of Parcels of Land Turned Over to Applicants	[SALAM 23 Jan]	28
Over 800 Prisoners Participate in Literacy Classes	[SALAM 13 Jan]	28

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Reconstruction Projects Become Operational in Gilan	[SALAM 5 Feb]	30
Pharmaceutical Plant Operational in Tabriz	[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 26 Feb]	30
Computerized Production of Heavy Tools in Khorasan	[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 26 Feb]	30
Moghan Hide Factory's Exports Up 350 Percent	[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 26 Feb]	30

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Zionist Aggression, Lack of UN Action Deplored

92AS0720A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 23 Feb 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Zionist Aggression and U.N. Double Standard"]

[Text] International wire services reported Thursday on large scale Israeli army land and air attacks against Hizbollah (Party of God) positions in South Lebanon. [as printed] The two-day Zionist strike reportedly ended of Friday. The Zionist forces used tanks, armored vehicles, jet fighters and infantry troops with the support of massive artillery fire in their thrust into southern Lebanon.

Tel Aviv's recent assassination of Hizbollah leader Abbas Musavi as well as a series of military operations are clear violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. Even though the U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali has requested Israel to immediately withdraw its forces from areas controlled by the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the world body has not taken any positive and effective measure to stop Israel's adventurism and terrorism in the region.

Isn't disregarding the presence of U.N. peace-keeping forces and even subjecting them to hostility a gross and international violation of the U.N. charter? Shouldn't the U.N. council members hold emergency session to make a definite decision in regard to Tel Aviv's aggression against Lebanon's territorial integrity? What would have been the case if Iraq had violated U.N. resolutions and Iraqi forces had crossed the Kuwait border and shot at the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) forces? Would the U.N. council react in the same way that it has with respect to cases involving Israel's interests? The answer is negative and the reason is the U.N.'s double standard with respect to such issues.

For the past 43 years, Israel has violated international regulations and the U.N. charter by occupying the Palestine, parts of Egypt (before the signing of the Camp David Accord), Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, but the U.N. council has never imposed any punitive measures against Tel Aviv.

The recent Zionist aggression against Lebanon is certainly not the last one of its kind. More and more innocent Lebanese people will be killed in the hands of Israeli troops and more villages in southern Lebanon will be turned to rubbles by the Zionists' tanks and artillery shells in the years to come.

If the U.N. does not act properly towards the Israeli aggressions, the future of Middle East peace talks will be in question, there will be more violence in the region and the whole Middle East will continue to be in instability. And secondly the credibility of the U.N. council will be greatly tarnished. It should be noted that this is the first major test for Boutros Ghali's performance as a Middle Eastern head of the U.N., let's hope he'll try to succeed instead of giving in completely.

Terms of U.S. Loan To Israel Viewed

92AS0720E Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 2 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Shamir's Dilemma"]

[Text] Freeze settlements or no guarantees. This was America's terms to Israel for granting requests for loan guarantees amounting to \$10b. Unveiled last Monday, United States Secretary of State James A. Baker told the House of Representatives Subcommittee that he had laid out two alternatives for Israel:

—either it could halt settlement activity totally, including building infrastructure, in exchange for \$10b in loan guarantees over five years.

—or Israel could complete the houses it already has under construction as of January 1, 1991 but accept a lesser amount of money on a single year basis with a dollar deduction for every dollar it spent on the settlement.

Baker's bombshell comes against the backdrop of the Middle East peace talks which resumed on the same day in Washington. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said Baker should now take the next step and declare the settlements illegal while the mood in Israel was not so much defiance as anxiety, along with a lingering hope that a compromise can still be forced.

The question now is: Will Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir bow to America's ultimatum or will he reject it and lead Israel's break from Washington after decades when the United States had acted as unquestioning ally and banker for the Zionist state?

Shamir is a life-long Zionist committed to keeping and settling lands Israel captured from its Arab neighbors in 1967. His first reaction to Baker's announcement was one of indifference. "We cannot under any circumstances go along with the principle that Jews have no right to live in this or that part of the land of Israel," he retorted.

No doubt Shamir is facing a political dilemma. He faces an election on June 23 against a rejuvenated opposition Labor Party under a new leader, former premier Yitzhak Rabin. Rabin opposes most settlement and favors Palestinian autonomy. Washington also views Rabin as the man best able to repair Israeli ties with the U.S. which pumped \$4b of military and economic aid into the Zionist state last year. Close observers believe that Washington is actually bidding to unseat Shamir, a leader neither Bush nor Baker trusts, and with whom U.S. officials find difficult to do business with.

Israel also desperately needs to prevent its floundering economy from being swamped by hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai said this week Israel faced disaster without the aid which was only part of \$50b it needed. Unemployment in Israel is already at a two-decade high of 11 percent, with the rate topping 50 percent among immigrants in some areas.

Because of all these concerns, Shamir is undoubtedly faced with a difficult choice—either one of which will likely affect

his personal standing in the forthcoming elections. One Mideast analyst aptly describes his choice between "the bad" and "the horrendous." Shamir's dilemma is bound to get a good deal more bitter in the coming weeks as debate for and against the U.S. pronouncements becomes more heated.

In the meantime, America's message of linkage marked the first in many years that the United States has placed political conditions on aid to Israel. It is hoped the decision will represent a harbinger of things to come.

Value of Imports From U.S. Imports Reach 1 Billion

92AS0591B London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 4

[Text] With its purchase of various kinds of goods and merchandise from the United States, last year (1991) the Islamic Republic made that country, in terms of the value of imports, the sixth-largest supplier of its needs in the world. World trade sources have reported the value of the imports of the Islamic Republic from the United States last year as exceeding \$500 million and have added that this country is gradually gaining a strong position in regards to trade with the Islamic Republic. Simultaneous with the announcement of the value of U.S. exports to Iran in 1991, official sources of the Department of Commerce in Washington have revealed that the United States, in addition to exporting about \$500 million worth of goods directly to Iran last year, sold at least about \$500 million worth of goods indirectly to the Tehran regime. Considering the figures announced by the international trade sources as well as the U.S. Department of Commerce, experts believe that the export to Iran of about \$1 billion worth of various goods by U.S. merchants last year has changed that country to the fourth major supplier of goods needed by Iran in the world.

According to a report published in MEED in London, during the first nine months of 1991, the United States imported oil and other Iranian products valued at \$177 million. The above-mentioned journal projected in one of its recent issues, presenting a picture of the way trade relations between the Islamic Republic and Western countries are expanding, that in the course of this year, the United States will normalize trade relations with the Islamic regime in Tehran.

Editorial Criticizes NATO's Manfred Woerner

*92AS0720C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 27 Feb 92 p 2*

[Editorial: "Shame on Manfred Woerner"]

[Text] The NATO chief, Germany's Manfred Woerner, has done a lot talking over the past few days and many of the things he has said, hinted at or proposed will in time reveal themselves as regrettable, prejudiced, and even shameful.

Let's deal with the same issue first. Israel is arguably the most likely state around today to drop a nuclear device on a neighbour. Germany has played a determining role in the world community's turning a blind eye to the initial creation of Israel and its subsequent expansion by military means.

Whereas the UN Security Council, led by the Americans, waged war against Iraq within six months of its invasion of

Kuwait, the same UN that gave birth to Israel, sat in mute silence when it swallowed all of what was left of partitioned Palestine.

Forty-four years later, Israel occupies all of Palestine and parts of Lebanon and Syria. Far from anyone speaking of an Israeli expansionist threat, Washington is negotiating a \$10b loan guarantee to help absorb Russian Jews. Mr. Woerner for his part is warning of Islamic resurgence in the Central Asian republics and making pointed, negative references to Iran in this regard.

By so doing, he displays a striking double standard and open contempt for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic movements around the globe. Iran was at the top of the list of those nations expressing satisfaction at the reunification of Germany in 1990, following the end of the Cold War.

With regard to the newly independent Central Asian republics, however, Mr. Woerner would like to see secular, pro-Western governments, as Islamic renaissance "does not meet the interests of NATO." One question that surfaces here is this: if people respect the right of the Germans, who twice have led the world into history's largest conflagrations, to be allowed to follow their own cultural heritage, why does an important German personality like Manfred Woerner not believe in the same rights for the Central Asians?

It seems that NATO, now faced with creating a role for itself, has deemed the containment of Islamic resurgence as its priority military goal.

It is regrettable that Manfred Woerner has become the cudgels bearer for this ill-starred enterprises, especially in the light of the respect Germany is usually afforded throughout the Muslim world. Is Mr. Woerner enough of a loon to believe armed force can stop ideas? If so, he has taken precious little wisdom from history.

Then again, his statements may be the result of continuing German angst over the Jewish question and the state of Israel. On that score, if the Germans want to spend from now to eternity playing Sisyphus for Zionists, they should find another dumping ground for the fallout other than the Muslim world.

Agricultural, Technical Memo Signed With Brazil

*92AS0722E Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 23 Feb 92 p 2*

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—Brazilian Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrita Filho left here Thursday at the end of his four-day visit. A letter of understanding was signed in conclusion of his talks with Iranian officials.

The agreement inked by Filho and his Iranian counterpart Issa Kalantari, put emphasis on Tehran-Brasilia cooperation in the field of agriculture, transfer of technological know-how, and exchange of information and experts.

Republic Is Austria's Third Commercial Trading Partner

92AS0718H Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
26 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Tehran—27 Bahman-16 February—The volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Austria in 1991 (Dey 1369-1370) increased by 24 percent and reached 6.3 billion shillings (\$557 million).

Based on reports by the information and statistics center of Austria, of this amount, 1.9 billion shillings (\$167 million) involved Iranian exports to Austria, which, compared to the 1.25 billion shillings (\$110 million) in exports of the Islamic Republic of Iran to that country in 1990, indicate an increase of more than 52 percent. According to these statistics, oil is at the top, that is, 71 percent of oil exports go to Austria.

Carpets and fruits, at 21 and 4.6 percent, respectively, were the most important nonoil exports of Iran to Austria.

In exchange, in 1991, Austria exported a total of 4.4 billion shillings (\$389 million) worth of industrial goods and raw materials to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which, in comparison with the 3.8 billion shillings (\$337 million) in goods exported in 1990 by that country to Iran, indicates an increase of 15.1 percent.

Hence, the value of the exports of Austria to Iran in 1991 was more than twice that of the exports of Iran to that country.

Agricultural Cooperation With Spain Viewed

92AS0722D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 27 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Tehran, 26 February (IRNA)—Spanish Secretary of State for Commerce Miguel Angel Feito here Wednesday announced his country's readiness to extend financial facilities to Iran for meeting its reconstruction efforts.

Feito, in his meeting with Minister of Mines and Metals Muhammad Hussein Mahlouji, said Spanish firms were keen on active involvement in Iran's reconstruction efforts.

Mahlouji for his part proposed bilateral cooperation in areas such as mining including decorative stone slabs, in steel and aluminium industries, and in joint ventures on Qeshm Island free-trade zone.

The Spanish official also had a meeting with deputy Agriculture Minister for Plan and Budget Affairs Jalai Rasolof Wednesday morning.

Feito declared Spain's readiness to cooperate with Iran in agro-industries including transfer of technology to manufacture agricultural machinery and aircraft used in impregnating clouds with rain.

Domestically Produced Car Parts Exported to Europe

92AS0718G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
26 Feb 92 p 10

[Interview with Minister of Industries Engineer Ne'matzadeh by reporters in Borujerd; date not given]

[Text] Borujerd—Central News Unit—28 Bahman-17 February—This year, \$260 million worth of the country's industrial products were exported. This figure will reach \$350-400 million by the end of the year [20 March 1992].

Engineer Ne'matzadeh, the minister of industries, who was visiting the production units of Borujerd, made the above statement in an interview with reporters and, referring to the high quality of goods produced in the country, added: Most goods purchased in the country's industrial units are of high quality and are comparable to similar foreign products.

He added: At the present time, parts such as radiators, filters, and brake shoes for cars are exported to France, Austria, and German, which in itself indicates the increased quality of the industrial products of Iran.

The minister of industries added: Next month, 600,000 meters of fabric produced in the textile factories of Borujerd will be exported to European and Asian countries.

In addition, the level of production of various kinds of industrial nonmetal goods in the units under the supervision of the Ministry of Industries were announced last Dey [22 December-20 January]. According to a report by the public relations office of the Ministry of Industries, these items included plate glass, glass dishes, safety glass, asbestos, tile, uncontaminated china, china dishes, plaster, glaze, and insulation.

The production of plate glass in Dey of this year [22 December 1991-20 January 1992] reached 320 tons, 13.5 percent more than the nominal capacity of the factories and 4.6 percent more than the production level in Dey of 1369 [22 December 1990-20 January 1991]. The production of safety glass also during this period reached 111,366 square meters, which is 58.3 percent of the nominal production capacity. If this figure reaches 60 percent, the domestic needs for this product will be entirely met.

Fiat Truck Assembly Plant To Begin Operations

92AS0663F Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] The (Eyuku) Company, affiliated with the Italian Fiat industries, will export to Iran parts for 5,000 heavy trucks for assembly by the end of the present Christian year.

According to IRNA from Rome, on the basis of an agreement between (Eyuku) and the Iran Zamyad Company, these parts will be assembled in the new facilities that began operations some time ago. The cost of these parts has been announced to be 415 billion lira (about \$345 million). According to this report, (Eyuku) has so far sent parts for 1,000 complete heavy trucks to Iran.

According to the Italian company, the assembly of these trucks will begin soon. Prior to this agreement, this Italian company signed an agreement to assemble minibuses with another company under the control of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

The (Eyuku) Fiat Company is at the present active in seven countries: India, Libya, Nigeria, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Tunisia and Egypt.

During 1991 this company earned \$6.6 billion in sales.

Domestically Made Trucks Exported to Russia*92AS0728D Tehran KEYHAN-I HAVA'I in Persian
11 Mar 92 p 10*

[News Report]

[Text] Tehran, Central News Unit; 12 Esfand, 2 March—The first shipment of trucks made by the Iran Kaveh Company was sent to the Federated Republic of Russia.

Within the framework of commercial exchanges between Iran and the Federated Republic of Russia, 50 domestically made trucks (Volvo?) were shipped to the Russian Republic by the Jolfa railroad.

The trucks, 30 per cent of the parts of which were produced in the country, are valued at 8 million dollars.

The director of exports of the Iran Kaveh Company talked with the central news unit regarding the question as to why trucks were exported even though these were needed domestically; he said, "The Iran Kaveh Company produces eight trucks daily; the company fulfills its agreements with government organizations and, with the permission of the ministry of heavy industries, exports its excess production in order to earn the foreign exchange needed by the factory."

He added, "The trucks produced in this factory have an enhanced value and desirable quality which enables them to compete in the world market; these trucks are exported to various countries."

He stated that the objective of the company in regard to exports was to compete with industrial countries and to find suitable markets in foreign countries especially neighboring countries. He added, "According to the agreement signed with the Federated Republic of Russia, 200 Volvo trucks will be exported to that country. The first shipment of 50 trucks has been sent and the remaining 150 trucks will be shipped by the middle of the next year to that republic."

Volume of Trade With Sudan to Reach \$300 Million*92AS0665P Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Jan 92 p 3*

[Text] Based on a memorandum of mutual understanding that was signed yesterday morning, the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Sudan will reach \$300 million per year.

This statement was made by Mas'ud Roghani-Zanjani, chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, in a press conference during a ceremony for the departing Sudanese economic delegation.

He said: The export of Iran's oil to Sudan at the annual rate of 1.2 million barrels is the most important matter mentioned in this memorandum of mutual understanding.

With the implementation of the provisions of this memorandum of mutual understanding, Iran will cooperate with this country in the matter of extracting Sudan's oil resources.

He continued by saying: To improve Sudan's economic situation, Iran will also sell 500 tractors to this country. The purchase of meat and livestock from Sudan, investment by the private sector in Iran in that country, cooperation in

establishing a free trade zone, planning consultative services, and activating the maritime and air freight lines between the two countries are other important points mentioned in this memorandum of mutual understanding.

During this interview, 'Abdol-Rahim Mahmud Hamdi, Sudanese minister of finance and economic planning, also described the results of his talks with the officials from our country as successful. He said: In the area of developing trade, commercial and oil relations between Sudan and Iran, we had talks with officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran during which the necessary agreements were reached in all areas.

On 10/21/70 [11 January 1992] the seven-person Sudanese Economic Council, consisting of the minister of power, the acting minister of commerce, a representative of the Central Bank, and experts from this country, led by this country's minister of financial affairs and at the invitation of our country's Plan and Budget Organization, came to Tehran and during their five-day stay in our country they held meetings and talks with the president of the republic, the minister of oil, the minister of commerce, the minister of economic and financial affairs, the minister of the reconstruction crusade, the chiefs of the Plan and Budget Organization and the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines, and the chief of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This memorandum of mutual understanding was signed by the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization of Iran and the Sudanese minister of finance.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS**ECO Conference Conducted Amid Sharp Differences***92AS0638F London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 2*

[Text] In one of the most intense and competitive struggles between the two neighbors, Iran and Turkey, to appeal to the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, on Sunday 16 February the first meeting was held in Tehran between the high-ranking leaders of the regional Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), attended by the president of the republic of Turkey, the prime minister of Pakistan, the leaders of the republics of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, the speaker of the Majles of Uzbekistan, the foreign minister of Tajikistan, and presidential deputies of the republics of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. At the very outset, Hashemi-Rafsanjani proposed that with the addition of the Central Asian republics to ECO, its name should be changed to the Caspian Sea Littoral Nations Cooperation Organization.

ECO is the same RCD, or Regional Cooperation for Development, which was formed more than 20 years ago with the participation of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, all three of whom were members of the CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] military organization.

It is interesting that the Islamic revolution did not withdraw from this organization, which was formed in opposition to the Soviet empire in the framework of the West's defensive systems, and kept it just as it was, changing only its name

from RCD to ECO, despite all the slogans and anti-Western and anti-American commotion.

At the latest meetings of the ECO foreign ministers, held 15 days ago in Ankara, the three republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan joined the ECO and it is expected that Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan and then Afghanistan will also be added. If this happens a market of 300 million will be created which, according to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, can be an important factor in international trade.

Despite Hashemi-Rafsanjani's exaggerated claim that ECO will become a superpower, one of the conference participants told KEYHAN of London that the insistence by the preachers on the new organization being "called Islamic and manifested as Islamic" has made almost all the new and old participants uncomfortable with the exception of Pakistan.

In an indirect reference to Turkey, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that the nations of the Caspian littoral "form a big Islamic family and can transform themselves to a world economic power without the need for foreigners."

Radio Tehran, quoting Hashemi-Rafsanjani, added that the imperialist nations, especially America, thought the Muslim republics to be without shelter or supervision, but this is not so, and together we can become an international power.

In the race to appeal to the newly independent Central Asian republics, the Islamic Republic has lost the game already to Turkey. Experts, referring to the insistence by Iranian officials on giving an Islamic flavor to this new organization, are predicting that Tehran is planting a bomb under ECO's foundation that will probably blow up in its face.

In reality, other than the Islamic Republic and to some extent Pakistan, the other members have political systems in which religion is kept separate from politics, and in comparing the current regimes in power in Tehran and Ankara, they have chosen Turkey without any hesitation, and have made it the model for their desires.

The clear and direct attacks and criticism of Turkey by high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic such as Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judiciary, and accusations against this country of "being converted to a tool of America and the West to sow discord between the Islamic Republic and its liberated brothers in Islam," the references to "Turkish provocations at the borders between Iran and Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan" and the harsh attacks by the Islamic Republic's newspapers against Turkey have to a great extent poisoned the atmosphere of relations between Tehran and Ankara.

The fact that Turgut Ozal, president of the republic of Turkey, and several other participants at the ECO conference refrained from going to Khomeyni's grave and placing a wreath, played its own part in arousing the severe wrath of Iranian officials.

At the end of its news broadcast, Radio Tehran stated very briefly that Turgut Ozal visited the National Jewelry Museum (imperial crown jewels) at the Central Bank, but immediately went into a long and enthusiastic report on

Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of Pakistan, who went to Khomeyni's tomb and met there with "Haj Aqa Ahmad Khomeyni."

Paper Views Arab-Israeli Peace Talks With Skepticism

92AS0720B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL

in English 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Looking for Excuses"]

[Text] Arabs and Israelis are scheduled to begin "peace talks" today against a backdrop of violence and political tensions in the Middle East, specially in Lebanon. The talks and negotiations are expected to be very stormy and the possibility of their collapse is there.

Among Arab participants in the talks there is a feeling of despair and betrayal generally stemming from the fact that they (the talks) have so far produced no tangible outcomes or improvements in the conditions of the Arabs or the Palestinian people.

The general feeling of betrayal or frustration among Arab participants in the talks is because they have come to realize—if they ever had any doubt in their minds—that Israeli participation in the alleged negotiations is more of a symbolic affair and a media gimmick rather than a real desire to advance peace. That is why nothing has so far come out of the talks that began with a lot of hope in Madrid in October of last year.

Israel's participation in the talks and its desire for peace have remained just that—hollow desire—and it has refused to concede anything. If actions speak louder than words, then it can be concluded that Israel has become even more violent and territory greedy.

Upon entering the talks, Arabs and Palestinians were hoping that Israel would at least impose some kind of freeze on settlements in the occupied territories. But that has not been the case. On the contrary, if anything, Israel seems to have become more intent on expanding the illegal and internationally condemned settlements. As far as another occupied Arab territory, Syrian Golan Heights, are concerned, several Israeli politicians have vowed unequivocally that the Zionist state would not return an inch of Syrian territory.

As far as Palestinians and their conditions in the occupied territories are concerned, more brute force has been directed against them. But violence has not been limited to the Palestinian territories and its people. In South Lebanon, following the assassination of the Hizbullah secretary general Abbas Musavi, Arab-Israeli violence has attained new heights not seen for several years.

The Zionist state seems to have devised new designs for South Lebanon and its Islamic movement. It seems to have set the goal of decapitating the Islamic movement's leadership in that region. In July 1989 it was Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid and in February 1992 it was Sheikh Abbas Musavi. Obeid was kidnapped by Israeli commandoes and is still in Israeli captivity kept as a chip to be used in a game of hostage bargaining.

But harsh Israeli policy can only backfire and make the Islamic movement in South Lebanon more determined than before to pursue its goals. Because if Israeli should want to cast light on the future of movement in Lebanon why shouldn't it (the Islamic Shi'ite movement) want to reciprocate the hostile act? More civilians on both sides will be killed in the meantime—that is the only effect Israel's policy would have.

Israel's violence would also make the Islamic movement more radical, if anything at all. Already the head of the Hizbullah Shi'ite movement, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, has dismissed appeals for moderation and pledged that his fighters will step up attacks on Israel to avenge his slain predecessor. The assassination of Sheikh Abbas has also made it impossible to carry out any negotiations on the fate of the remaining hostages both in Lebanon and Israel.

It is argued that Israel has launched the new round of violence to secure the excuse for justifying its new violent policy. This policy, Israeli policymakers are hopeful, would force the Arabs to reconsider their participation and position in the "peace talks," giving Israel the excuse to publicize that it was the Arabs who suspended the talks and not their adversary.

Tehran To Distance Itself From Afghan Radicals

92AS0723P London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] While various groups opposed to the government and representatives of the government of Afghanistan are preparing to hold talks to find a political solution in Afghanistan, (Banun Savan), representative of the general secretary of the UN for Afghanistan affairs, announced that the only option for the Afghanistan problem is a political solution. Javad Mansuri, the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Pakistan, said at a news conference in Tehran: Conditions in the area are moving in such a way that those who supported extremist solutions for the Afghanistan problem have lost their former appeal and thus they have begun to lean towards political solutions.

On the other hand, Hashemi Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic, said in a proclamation to the third "Assembly of Shi'ites of Afghanistan" held in Tehran in mid-February: At this sensitive juncture, the Muslim parties and groups in Afghanistan would be better served if they set their sights on a final solution to the Afghanistan problem as a primary goal. He added that at this time the Islamic revolution in Iran can serve as a model for the Islamic movement of the people of Afghanistan.

In the midst of this, the representative of the general secretary of the UN said that there is a very strong possibility that meetings between prominent people coming from "various political horizons in Afghanistan" would be held in the last part of April in Vienna.

He said: Afghanistan needs an intermediary so this war can end and the need for talks among the various Afghanistan factions arises from the fact that "the nature of the conflict has changed."

Afghanistan has also requested membership in the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], and according to Hashemi this request is being studied and the final result depends on future developments in this country.

Bahrain Interested in Regional Common Market

92AS0728C Tehran KEYHAN-I HAVA'I in Persian
11 Mar 92 p 3

[News Report]

[Text] Tehran, 14 Esfand, 4 March: During a meeting in Tehran among the deputy prime minister and the minister of industries and development of Bahrain and the first vice president of the Islamic Republic, the participants emphasized the formation of a regional Islamic common market.

During this meeting which included Iran's minister of mines and metals, Ashrafi conveyed the greetings of the authorities of Bahrain and said, "We are aware of Iran's Five-Year Plan and would like to express the desire of the government of Bahrain for many sided cooperation with the government of Iran. We hope that as a powerful country in the region, the Islamic Republic will play an effective role regarding cooperation with the countries of the region."

The deputy prime minister of Bahrain continued, "We believe that by helping and cooperating with each other, the countries of the region can form a major Islamic common market."

During the meeting, Dr. Habibi expressed his pleasure at the start of regional cooperation and said, "The Islamic Republic possesses a great deal of potential which can be used to serve a common objective through cooperation among ourselves." The first vice president added, "Past experience has shown that without peace and order in the area, mutual cooperation is not practicable. At the same time, greater economic cooperation helps to maintain stability and peace in the region."

Meeting With the Minister of Oil

In the course of their meeting with Iran's minister of oil, Bahrain's deputy prime minister and the minister of industries and development expressed their desire for greater cooperation in the fields of economics, industry, and oil. Aqazadeh welcomed the expansion of stable oil, economic, and industrial relations between the two countries and expressed the desire for joint investments and the establishment of multinational companies with the cooperation of the regional countries.

Barzani Apologizes for Erroneous Bombing Slur

92AS0728B Tehran KEYHAN-I HAVA'I in Persian
11 Mar 92 p 1

[News Report]

[Text] 17 Esfand, 7 March: Masud Barzani, leader of the Democrat Party of Kurdistan, apologized to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the statements made by a party spokesman to the effect that Iran had launched an air attack on a Kurdish area of Iraq. He said that the reports relating to the incident were untrue.

Barzani, who was speaking at a news conference in Paris, emphasized that the planes which attacked three areas of Iraq inhabited by Kurds all belonged to the Turkish air force.

He attributed the false reports to the fact that in the past, Turkish planes had never penetrated so deep into Iraqi Kurdistan. Barzani said, "The inhabitants of Nudaj believed the planes to be Iranian." According to Barzani, in view of the fact that most of the inhabitants of the area were opposed to Iran, one could see how a preconceived negative view may have contributed to the report that Iran was the attacker.

In reply to a question as to what his expectations were regarding the attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the problem of Iraqi Kurds, Barzani said that relations with Iran as a neighboring country could be traced far back into the past and that he hoped that good relations would always exist based on mutual noninterference in internal affairs.

He expressed the hope that Iran would take steps to stabilize conditions in the region and would render humanitarian aid to the Kurds. He referred to the presence of 100,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Iran and said that he hoped that these refugees would continue to receive suitable support until their return to their country. He added, "It is to be hoped that any problems that might exist between Iraqi Kurdistan and Iran will be solved amicably."

Agreement Reached With Pakistan in Health Care

92AS0722F Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 1 Mar 92 p 8

[Text] Islamabad (IRNA)—Iran and Pakistan Friday agreed to set up a joint technical committee to control malaria in their common border regions.

The decision was made in a meeting between Iranian Health Minister Dr. Muhammad Reza Malekzadeh and his Pakistani counterpart Taslim Nawaz Gardezi here.

Gardezi who visited Iran in mid-1991 praised the progress of the health system in Iran including activities of the academic and research centers as "significant."

"Despite Iran's involvement in a long war (1980-88), the health system and medical education in Iran has made obvious progress," he said.

Gardezi also referred to the 1,000 odd Pakistani medical specialists working in Iran, and expressed his country's readiness to dispatch more doctors if necessary.

Malekzadeh said Iran welcomes Pakistani medical specialists, and promised to look into their difficulties in Iran.

Malekzadeh who arrived here Friday morning for a four-day visit, told reporters at Islamabad airport that Iran is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in the field of rural health and production of medicines, in return for the services of the Pakistani specialists and physicians in Iranian villages.

Pointing to the presence of more than five million Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, Malekzadeh said the refugees

face medical problems such as malaria and tuberculosis, which require close cooperation between Iran and Pakistan.

Republic Fourth Exporter of Goods to Qatar

92AS0665D Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] At a press conference, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Qatar announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran is the fourth largest exporter of goods to Qatar, after Japan, India, and Pakistan.

He hoped that with the cooperation of the nations in the area, in the future an Islamic common market and also a regional common market would be created.

'Ali Danesh Monfard, governor-general of Fars, also spoke at this conference. He thanked the Qatar officials for their sincere cooperation in establishing the special exhibition hall, and he emphasized the need for daily efforts in expanding relations. He said: The Province of Fars, with a population of 4 million and an area of 123,000 sq km, because of its proximity to the nation of Qatar, can cooperate more closely with this country in various areas.

He said: In the areas of treatment, education, university affairs, industry, and investment, the Province of Fars can cooperate with the Qatar nation because of its resources and vast investments in these areas.

Engineer Mohammad Bakhshi, marketing assistant for the Iran Export Development Center, discussed the goal of establishing Iran's special exhibition halls throughout the region. He said: The discussion of these plans is a beginning toward expanding economic relations between these countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran as much as possible, and it opens the way toward the strengthening of trade and investment relations.

Seyyed Amir Hoseyn, director of the Iran Special Exhibition Hall at Dohah, Qatar, also announced: At this exhibition hall the crops and products of more than 200 of Iran's producing and industrial units are on display and available for purchase in 230 booths.

He said: The Iran Special Exhibition Hall in Dohah, Qatar, is Iran's largest special exhibition hall in the Persian Gulf region, and it is hoped that the establishment of this exhibition hall will provide suitable assistance in developing and strengthening economic relations.

During the Persian Gulf war, at the request of the Qatar Government, the Islamic Republic of Iran sent 5,00 head of sheep to provide that country with the meat it needed.

Mazandaran Fruits Exported to Turkmenia

92AS0591C London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 4

[Text] The first cargo of Mazandaran fruits was exported to Turkmenia last week and sold in that country at 35 cents a kilo. The people of Turkmenia warmly welcomed the Iranian fruits and vegetables.

The Office of the Governor General of Mazandaran also announced this week that the border between the two countries has been open since last Friday for the traffic of businessmen and those interested in visiting their relatives

across the border. The export and import of goods and travel take place across the border bridge. Twelve million tomans have been spent in recent months to equip the customs between Iran and Turkmenia.

Mohammad Najafi, the deputy governor general of Mazandaran, announced this week that soon 2,800 peddler's permits will be issued to applicants interested in trade relations with Turkmenia. Many of the people of Turkmenia speak Persian. In 'Eshqabad, which was previously a part of Khorasan Province, Iranian customs and traditions are common.

Persian New Year To Be Celebrated in Tajikistan

92AS0591G London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] In his recent visit to Tajikistan, 'Abbas Maleki, the deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic, presented to Niaz Mutalibov, the president of Tajikistan, the letter of 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, introducing 'Ali Mojtahed Shabestari as the Iranian ambassador to Tajikistan. Maleki told reporters: According to the decision of the parliament of Tajikistan, the Persian New Year will from here on be the official holiday of this republic, and Persian script will be the official script of Tajikistan. The Ministry of Education will be publishing books for the teaching of Persian in Tajikistan.

Displeasure Registered With Turkmenia

92AS0591H London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] The Islamic Republic has registered a serious complaint about the newly independent Republic of Turkmenia for conferring the training of its seminary students on Turkey.

'Eshqabad television announced this report this week and encouraged the Turkmenia Government to continue its cultural and religious relationship with Turkey. Seminary students are sent to Turkey on the initiative of Nasrollah 'Abdollahof, the grand judge of Turkmenistan.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Deputy on Demonstrations in Khuzestan

92AS0591J London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] In a pre-agenda speech, 'Abdolhoseyn Moqtada'i, the representative of Abadan in the Majles, accused Tavalla'i, the governor general of Khorasan, of appointing persons in charge of the reconstruction of Abadan and Khorramshahr "whose violations in signing contracts and making use of contractors and disruptive elements in the executive system are clear to the people of these cities."

After a long, raucous quarrel between the representative of the president and the "reconstruction council," the reconstruction of Abadan and Khorramshahr was finally conferred on the governor general of Khuzestan. This decision was made as a result of the arbitration by 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic.

The representative of Abadan in the Majles said that he has mentioned the problems of employing dishonest individuals

to the governor general, but "he believed that the reconstruction officials were trustworthy administrative people." The representative of Abadan added: "Concerning the good management of these gentlemen, suffice it to say that recently in Khorramshahr, millions of tomans have been embezzled and squandered by some of the reconstruction officials and the contractors, resulting in the dismissal of the head of reconstruction in Khorramshahr. In Abadan, a number of contractors affiliated with the head of reconstruction were arrested by the distinguished prosecutor general of Abadan and sent to jail." The representative of Abadan revealed that the building of the inspection unit was invaded at night by individuals from the office of the governor general of Khuzestan in an attempt to steal the documents revealing the accusations against the head of reconstruction, but the documents had already been transferred to a safe place.

The representative of Abadan pointed out: "The recent actions of the governor general of Khuzestan have caused problems and disturbances in the city of Abadan. For the counterrevolutionaries to have created such problems would have required a great deal of time and expense. The people have engaged in protests against the autocratic behavior and incompetence of the governor general, the details of which I will avoid repeating here."

Radicals Said To Create 'Unsafe' Investment Scene

92AS0591E London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] 'Ali Naqi Khamushi, the director of the Chamber of Commerce, in a speech at a gathering of guilds and businessmen in Tehran, strongly attacked the extremists, in particular, the newspapers SALAM and BAYAN, published under the supervision of Mohammad Kho'ini and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, respectively, and said: In order to implement the reforms projected in the Five-Year Plan, the Islamic Republic needs foreign aid. And in order to receive this aid, it must try to improve its foreign relations.

He added: If this rationale is correct, then why is it that when preparations are made to improve relations, some in the Majles object to it? Khamushi said: "Capital is like a bird in a cage. If you put your finger closer to the cage, the birds start to fly around. The national economy requires that in the course of the Five-Year Plan, \$75 billion in foreign capital be used directly or indirectly through nonoil exports or foreign resources. We must prepare the grounds to absorb foreign investment, and the ground is prepared through rational talk."

In order to state more clearly that certain people show the climate in Iran today to be unsafe, the director of the Chamber of Commerce said: "When we speak with foreign investors and present to them the ratifications of the Five-Year Plan and the establishment of stability, they respond: Then, what do you have to say about what is written in SALAM and BAYAN?" He added: "On the other hand, if these newspapers are asked, why do you threaten investment security with your reports? they shout, Oh, what has happened to Islam? What has happened to freedom?"

The director of the Chamber of Commerce, referring to the industrial equipment being old and worn out, said: The majority of the machinery that has reached the end of its 10- to 15-year life and should be discarded and replaced with new machinery still continues to work. "Unfortunately, due to the problems with the imposed war, none of the factories have been able to replace the old machinery with new. A few days ago, I visited the Rey textile factory, with a production of 100,000 meters of cloth per day and 3,400 workers. In this factory there was a textile machine that was 45 years old. In the past years, industry was strangled and no investment was injected into it."

Concerning unemployment and hidden unemployment from which Iranian society and economy suffer and the inability of the government to create new jobs, he said: We need at least 800,000 new jobs annually. Do we and the officials not suffer because of the existence of cigarette sellers at intersections? Are we not ashamed to see those who hold dollars in their hands at the Estandul Intersection or on Ferdowsi Street? Are we not ashamed to see those who wipe cars and beg on streets? These are all the effects. What is the cause? The cause is the shortage of employment in the country. At the start of the 21st century, there are still people in our society who carry 300-kg loads on their backs. The term porter has not yet been eliminated from our vocabulary. Does anyone do the job of such a porter in advanced countries? As long as these poor people exist in our country, they carry the load on their shoulders."

Concerning the escape of potential capital, Khamushi said: "As soon as a number of people wanted to activate the mines, the claim was made that it was government property and could not be transferred to the private sector. One step was taken, and they called it capitalism. Someone wanted to provide for the people's needs in this manner, and with this slogan, they would not allow it to work."

Common Sense and Not Slogans

The president of the Chamber of Commerce, considering the Majles responsible, implicitly and explicitly, for putting a cog in the government wheel, asked the guilds to mobilize the forces and take the initiative in the elections in order to make the fourth Majles more harmonious with the policies of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani than the present Majles that is going through its final weeks: "These elections, if not more sensitive than the last one, are no less sensitive. The president says, in order to build the country, we need common sense and not slogans. You and I must realize this point and pay attention on 21 Farvardin [10 April] (voting day) for whom we cast our votes in the ballot boxes. Are we preparing a Majles that will serve the progress of the country or one that will put cogs in the wheel of correct policies?"

While saying that the Islamic Republic needs a Majles in which "thinking representatives are intelligent, have initiative and present solutions for economic, cultural and social progress," Khamushi added: "We no longer need to live with slogans. Slogans cannot put food into empty stomachs." He concluded that if representatives who are supportive of the

government policies are elected to the Majles, "God will also be generous...." Otherwise, we shall face problems.

Economic, Industrial Cooperation Planned With Kazakhstan

92AS0722C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 29 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Tehran, 28 February (IRNA)—The Kazakh Minister of Roads and Transportation Assin Garin held talks with Iran's Minister of Industries Muhammad Reza Nematzadeh here Thursday.

Nematzadeh expressed Iran's readiness for economic and industrial cooperation with the Kazakh republic on implementation of industrial projects for the production of chemicals, textiles and clothing, construction materials, pharmaceuticals, and food as well as designing necessary machinery.

Nematzadeh hoped that the two sides would set up common commercial companies and launch common investments to boost trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

They also agreed to exchange expert missions in order to assess bilateral potentials in industries and exports.

Regulation for Islamic Establishments Detailed

92AS0665B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Jan 92 p 11

[Text]

A. Islamic Student Organizations

Article 1. Islamic student organizations (such as the Islamic society, the Islamic students society and others) are societies composed of volunteer Muslim students which may be created at any one of the nation's centers of higher learning and operate within the limits of their lawful responsibilities.

Article 2. Any university may have more than one Islamic student organization within the conditions and provisions of these guidelines.

Article 3. In any university, an Islamic student organization is an independent legal entity.

Note: In any university, an Islamic student organization, after having met the requirements for official status (given in Article 5), may operate branches or units in the colleges of that university.

Article 5. (as published) Islamic student organizations may be operated in two stages:

Stage 1. The founding council (with seven members), along with a number of students introduces itself to the "three person council for studying the competence of founding councils" (described in Article 6). The number of students (in addition to the members of the founding council) is as follows:

For universities that have less than 2,000 students, 30 persons

For universities that have 2,000 to 5,000 students, 50 persons

For universities that have 5,000 to 10,000 students, 70 persons

For universities that have more than 10,000 students, 100 persons

The three-person study council (described in Article 6), after confirming competence, will issue a temporary license for these organizations.

Stage 2. Whenever the number of members of an Islamic student organization reaches 40 percent of all the students at a university, the organization becomes official and may be granted the privileges authorized by the president of the university and in accordance with the guidelines established by the board of directors within the limits of resources.

Note: Any time the Islamic student organization loses its general qualifications after acquiring official status or its number of members drops below 40 percent of the student population, it loses its official status.

Article 6. The three-person study council is authorized to study the competence of the Islamic student organization at the universities and to issue licenses for them. The council will consist of:

A) A representative of the office of the council of representatives of the exalted leader at each university.

B) The president of the university or his representative.

J) A representative of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education or the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education, as appropriate.

Article 7) The qualification of the founding council are as follows:

A) Practical commitment to Islam, the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult and the Constitution.

B) Not having ethical corruption, a record of political condemnation or a penal record in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and not having been convicted by the student strike committees.

J) Nonaffiliation (whether now or in the past) with parties, groups or organizations whose activities have been lawfully prohibited.

Article 8. In the event that the founding council or the organization has a violation in any of the universities or any of the three-person study councils, they can refer the matter for resolution to the supervisory or investigative council of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council.

B. Faculty Islamic Councils

Article 9. The members of the faculties of universities and the higher schools may form one or several faculty Islamic councils at a university.

Article 10. Those volunteering to form an Islamic organization must be at least eight in number, must meet the requirements given in Article 7 of these guidelines, must

submit their names to the three-person study council in accordance with Article 6 of these guidelines, and if confirmed they may begin operations when they obtain the temporary license.

Article 11. If they obtain official status, the faculty Islamic councils at any university may obtain help from the university based on the permanent license obtained. The total membership (including the seven people in the founding council) must be at least four percent of the total faculty at that university, and under no circumstances may it be less than ten people.

Article 12. These guidelines, with 12 articles and two notes, received final approval at the 265th session of the Supreme Islamic Revolution Council held on 8/28/1370 [19 November 1991].

Khorasan Area Law Enforcement Commanders Named

92AS0663D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Jan 92 p 9

[Text] Mashhad—ABRAR correspondent.—The new law enforcement commanders of the cities of Birgard, Sabzevar, Neyshabur, Nohbandan, Quchan, Esfarayen, and Torbat Heydariyyeh were introduced to the governor general of Khorasan.

Governor Rismanchian, the commander of law enforcement of the Province of Khorasan, presented a report on the regional security situation of the province and introduced Lt. Col. Mohammad Esma'il Radpur, Maj. Mohammad Sadrollahi, Lt. Guard Col. Yadollah Ahrari, Lt. Guard Col. Mohammad Mashhadi, Lieutenant Guard Colonel Halimi, and Lt. Col. Hasan Farid as the new law enforcement commanders of Sabzevar, Birjand, Neyshabur, Torbat Heydariyyeh, Quchan and Sarakhs, respectively, and Maj. Mohammad Taqi Rashidian as the head commander of the Nohbandan region.

New Regulations for Turning over Passports Announced

92AS0665R Tehran SALAM in Persian 21 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] The Public Relations Office of Islamic Republic Airlines announced a new procedure for turning over passenger visas at the airport for their revalidation of place and to ensure that the passenger is carrying full documentation. The following regulations have been put into effect:

1 - All passengers who have previously reserved seats on HOMA flights should report with ticket and visa in hand three days before departure and no later than 1800 hours to the HOMA visa unit on Ostad Nejatollahi Street. Passengers who have registered for the standby list and do not have a confirmed reservation, as those with confirmed reservations, must report with ticket and visa in hand three days before departure to the HOMA visa unit. After ensuring that passenger documents are complete, Islamic Republic Airlines will confirm seats in accordance with the order of the waiting list.

2 - Those urban passengers whose flights begin in Tehran need not report to Tehran to reconfirm or take steps

concerning the standby list. These passengers may report to the nearest HOMA office in their area to carry out the above procedure.

Similarly, passengers who live in Tehran but whose international flight begins in a municipality may report to the HOMA visa department in Tehran to reconfirm their reservations and have their travel documents checked, in accordance with the announced time. If some passengers for various reasons wish, in accordance with the former procedure, to send their visa to the airport via HOMA, the HOMA visa unit on Nejatollahi street will accept their visas three days before their flight.

Moqtada'i on Need To Shorten Legal Procedures

92AS0665N Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Yesterday morning (Tuesday) the general council of the National Supreme Court met, chaired by Ayatollah Moqtada'i, chief of the National Supreme Court, and attended by a representative of the National Public Prosecutor's Office.

At this meeting, the chief of the National Supreme Court began by presenting proposals on how to shorten trials and improve the quality of the hearings. He said: To prevent the prolongation of trials and repeated transfers of cases, to reach a definitive and proper conclusion in the shortest time possible, and to avoid leaving the people at loose ends, those cases which are presented in improperly-filled forms must be allowed to be rejected, and for the closing of the case it should be referred to a primary branch court. It is proposed that, without dropping a case, statistics on current improperly filed cases in the branch of the National Supreme Court be compiled and that these cases be returned to the primary branch to be corrected and closed.

The chief of the National Supreme Court added: In such cases the case is lost because of its errors, and this proposal is to stop a loss with the initial vote, which would lead to a rehearing of the case at a branch at the same level, and consequently the removal of the case from the first track.

The chief of the National Supreme Court also added:

In some instances a case is taken out of its first track because too much time elapses, and because some evidence is lost, or witnesses, as in such accidents as the death of a witness, or a defendant's denial in the next court; in the end this prolongs the trial and keeps the public in the dark. It is therefore necessary that the judges in the National Supreme Court, take into account all the religious and legal considerations and carefully study this matter in cases where there is no objection issued, so as to eliminate problems regarding the forms, and refer such cases to the primary branch for completion without reduction.

During the continuation of yesterday's session, the general council of the National Supreme Court heard three penal cases where the accusation was premeditated murder and manslaughter, and in all three cases the verdicts issued by the first-degree penal courts were judged to be incorrect, and with the rejection of these verdicts, it was decided that

another first-degree penal court, observing the regulations of the law, should conduct another hearing.

Regulations Needed To Protect Natural Resources

92WN0341D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 23 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] ABRAR News Service—In the second educational gathering of the officials and experts of herbal medicine, the head of the national forests and pastures agency emphasized the need for laws to protect and preserve the natural resources of the country.

Engineer Fallah considered the effective physical presence and participation of the people in the area of protecting and preserving natural resources necessary and called for the cooperation and continued presence of professors and experts in the country in the area of natural resources in order to prevent the existing disarray. He said: A solution to social problems related to the destruction of natural resources must be found based on academic research and must be discussed in master's and PhD theses.

The head of the national forests and pastures agency explained: At the present time, in the college of natural resources, attention is being paid to the biological dimension, to plants; however, the social issues are not separate from the problems of the natural resources.

Based on this report, the second educational gathering of officials and experts on herbal medicine will continue for nine days. Among the topics to be examined and discussed during this period are the important forest pests in Iran, pastures and keeping pastures, and the protection of forests against destructive elements.

Several Clergy Elevated to Rank of Ayatollah

92AS0591H London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] A group of official Hojjat ol-Eslams in the regime of the Islamic Republic have recently been elevated to the rank of ayatollah, with the help of their government press. This group has mostly been given the title of ayatollah by flatterers because of their position in the governing organization rather than because of their proficiency in learning. Essentially, the people in Iran still do not know how a Hojjat ol-Eslam is promoted to the rank of ayatollah and how he receives the rank of grand ayatollah.

A cleric who was a schoolmate of the officials of the Islamic regime and is now living abroad said to London KEYHAN: The new ayatollahs in recent years have been so involved in power struggles and trying to gain positions, wheeling and dealing and making speeches that they have had no chance to study to reach the rank of ayatollah and have only become ayatollahs overnight to make use of the social and political benefits of the rank. Among these ayatollahs are Sadeq Khalkhali; Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch; Ayatollah Mahfuzi, the representative of Khamene'i in the universities; Emami-Kashani, a member of the Council of Guardians; and Mohammadi-Gilani, a member of the Council of Guardians.

Tax Discount Regulations for Azadegan Announced*92AS0665E Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Jan 92 p 2*

[Text] The six articles of guidelines on how to grant tax discounts to former prisoners of war, recently approved by the Council of Ministers, have been announced.

Based on these guidelines, all former prisoners of war are exempt from the 50-percent payment of their total tax debt for the year of their release and the years prior to it.

The Public Relations Office of the Former Prisoners of War Affairs Staff issued the guidelines on how to grant tax discounts to former prisoners of war to IRNA as follows:

Article 1. The revenues of former prisoners of war derived from production units having a license to establish themselves from the appropriate authorities are exempt from the payment of taxes for five years "from the date operations begin."

Note 1: The provisions of this article do not prohibit the implementation of the other exemptions given in the Direct Taxation Law enacted in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988].

Note 2. If Article 81 of the Direct Taxation Law applies to the agricultural production units belonging to former prisoners of war, the beginning date for the five-year tax exemption period given in this article will in all cases be the date this production unit went into operation.

Article 2. All former prisoners of war are exempt from the 50-percent payment of their total tax debt for the year of their release and the years prior to it. In the event that the former prisoner is faced with financial difficulties, at the discretion of the appropriate general tax controller, this exemption may be extended to the years after his release.

Article 3. The presentation of former prisoners of war for the purpose of taking advantage of the provisions of these guidelines is the responsibility of the Former Prisoners of War Affairs Staff.

Article 4. At the request of the former prisoners of war, their tax affairs will be addressed and acted upon on a priority basis.

Article 5. At the request of the former prisoners of war, their tax indebtedness will be spread in accordance with the provisions of Article 167 of the Direct Taxation Law.

Article 6. The authority for dealing with tax disagreements for former prisoners of war in implementing these guidelines is the Tax Disagreements Resolution Council mentioned in the Direct Taxation Law, whose third member will be a representative of the Former Prisoners of War Affairs Staff.

Tehran Law Enforcement Operation Detailed*92AS0665G Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Jan 92 p 2*

[Text] In the past two months agents of the Tehran Province Police Precinct have identified new tricks by narcotics smugglers, identified and killed six narcotics smuggler gangs in their area of operations, confiscated about 240 kilograms of various types of narcotics, and in this connection they arrested 83 men and 11 women.

Colonel Javad Haji-Kerm, coordinating deputy of the Tehran Province Police Precinct, gave a press conference yesterday morning (Tuesday) in which he announced the above. He added: During the period mentioned, the members of four gangs of swindlers were identified and arrested in the areas of Karaj, Qom and Varamin, and to date they have confessed to more than 300 million rials in fraudulent activity.

In this regard he said: In transactions to buy land, houses, automobiles, and other things, the members of this gang gave bad checks to sellers, and after some wheeling and dealing and wearing down the seller, other members of the gang arrive on the scene and cancel the deal through mediation, obtaining a huge discount on the deal, and collecting a quantity of cash.

IRNA's correspondent reports that Colonel Javad Haji-Kerm also said: With the identification and arrest of members of five gangs of thieves in Qom, Varamin and Karaj, about 90 percent of the various assets stolen were recovered. These will be put on display during Daheh-ye Fajr days.

Among other activities carried out by the personnel of this police precinct, he cited the arrest of four thieves in Varamin, who engaged in theft and extortion using convertible clothing and plastic weapons. He also mentioned the confiscation of 124 video devices along with obscene films, 1,000 litres of alcoholic beverages with four stills.

With regard to this precinct's area of responsibility, the coordinating deputy of the Tehran Province Police Precinct, said: The Tehran Province Police Precinct includes the six regions of Karaj, Qom, Damavand, Savejbalagh, Varamin, and Shahryar, which are covered by 83 24-hour patrol units, 32 motor patrols, 36 two-man patrol units, and a number of intelligence patrols, which assist the operational forces by collecting and processing intelligence.

He said: In addition, 15 traffic patrol units have been added to the 20 previous patrols, which control the province's snowy areas in the winter.

In conclusion, Colonel Haji-Kerm thanked the mobilization forces and the committed people of the province and he asked them to continue cooperating with the police forces.

New Office Headed by Woman Advising Rafsanjani*92AS0591L London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jan 92 p 2*

[Text] Recently in Iran, an office called the "Office of Women's Affairs" has been established, headed by a woman by the name of Shahla Habibi. The head of the "Office of Women's Affairs" is at the same time an adviser to the president on women's affairs. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in a letter of appointment in this regard: "It is hoped that Islamic societies, especially the great stratum of women...will benefit from the cooperation and efforts to promote the status of women."

Shahla Habibi said that she is not a relative of Hasan Habibi, the first deputy of the president, and the similarity is only in name.

In the meantime, KEYHAN newspaper published in Tehran strongly complained about Ms. Shahla Habibi's refusal to participate in an interview with that publication, even though she conducted an extensive interview with the Persian section of the BBC. Tehran KEYHAN complained: Ms. Shahla places more value on the foreign media than domestic publications.

KEYHAN has criticized once or twice a month the officials in charge of organizations under the directorship and supervision of Hashemi-Rafsanjani for turning their backs on KEYHAN and giving interviews with foreign news agencies and publications. In this regard, the sharp edge of the attack is mostly directed toward foreign minister Velayati and his colleagues.

Freedom Movement Office Returned to Proprietor
92AS0591K London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] The building of the "Freedom Movement of Iran," headed by Mehdi Bazargan, was returned to its proprietor. This office is located on Takht-e Tavus Street and belongs to Yadollah Sahabi, who is himself a leader in the Freedom Movement. In 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], the strike forces of the Hezbollah, supported by the Islamic revolution committee, attacked this building several times and disrupted the group's meetings. Following these events, the revolution prosecutor's office, without issuing an indictment, ordered the building to be sealed. The justification for this action was apparently that the Freedom Movement had not yet received a permit for its activities from the Ministry of Interior. The Freedom Movement states that the application for the permit for activities was given to the Ministry of Interior but has not yet received a response, either positive or negative.

Two years ago, dozens of the members of this movement wrote an open letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and were arrested because of it. Several of them are still in jail.

Efforts To Merge Army, Pasdaran Resume
92AS0591A London KEYHAN in Persian
30 Jan 92 pp 1, 9

[Text] On Sunday, 28 Dey (18 January), the announcement was made in Tehran that the "Command Headquarters of the Forces" has been changed to the "Central Headquarters of the Armed Forces." "Firuzabadi," who has no military rank himself and has been appointed by 'Ali Khamene'i as the chief of the "Command Headquarters of the Forces," made this announcement in ceremonies held at the above-mentioned headquarters. He did not explain the reason for the name change and only said: "Since the first day, when the commander in chief of the armed forces announced the title of chief of the central headquarters of the armed forces, it has been the Central Headquarters of the Armed Forces." All the while, this headquarters was continuously called the "Command Headquarters of the Forces."

Firuzabadi also announced that Khamene'i has issued orders to establish a "supreme council of policymaking for the armed forces" to study the affairs of each of the armed forces (the Army and the Guards Corps) at the policymaking

level and "present [its findings] to the commander in chief of the armed forces" through the chief of the headquarters. He added: "In this manner, the Army and the Guards Corps will have one central headquarters, the Central Headquarters of the Armed Forces."

Firuzabadi did not say how many members the above-mentioned council has and who the members are. He also did not clarify whether the central headquarters of the army and the central headquarters of the Guards Corps that exist and are administered separately now will remain as before or will be dissolved and combined into the "Central Headquarters of the Armed Forces."

Informed observers consider the announced changes as part of the resumed efforts of the Tehran government to combine the Army and the Guards Corps. This has been implemented only to the extent that the two former Ministries of Defense and Guards Corps have merged to form the "Ministry of Defense and Support for the Armed Forces." A civilian, Akbar Torkan, is in charge of this ministry. Also, the "Command Headquarters of the Forces," which has now changed its name to the "Central Headquarters of the Armed Forces," supervised the two separate headquarters of the armed forces. Nevertheless, it is said that Khamene'i does not want to personally take charge of merging the Army and the Guards Corps, so that in the event that significant difficulties arise in implementation, he will be able to blame others and intervene as the "leader" to resolve the problems.

These observers consider the resumption of the efforts to combine the two forces as the result of the very heavy expenditures that the two forces impose on the government budget, which suffers from chronic financial shortages, especially since corruption and the problems resulting from mismanagement increase daily in the Guards Corps.

One day before the announcement concerning the change in the name of the "Command Headquarters of the Forces," 'Ali Khamene'i appointed an army general, a former officer of the "Air Force," Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, who is also a former minister of defense of the Islamic Republic, as the commander of the Guards Corps Air Force. This is the first time a military officer has been appointed to command one of the three branches of the Guards Corps, although two years ago, Admiral Malekzadegan was replaced by 'Ali Shamkhani, the former commander of the ground forces of the Guards Corps.

Along with the reports on the resumed efforts to combine the Army and the Guards Corps, rumors in Iran suggest that the illness from which Khamene'i suffers has reached a point that a successor must be found for him, both as the "leader" of the Islamic Republic and the general commander of the armed forces. It is said that after Khamene'i, both roles will transfer to the "Supreme National Security Council," in which Hashemi-Rafsanjani's group holds a majority.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the initiator and strong supporter of the idea of combining the Guards Corps and the Army, which are in disarray, while the Police Department, the gendarmerie, and the Islamic revolution committees have merged to create the "National Security Force."

The Guards Corps staunchly resists the idea of merging, because it is worried that it will lose to the Army in the same way that the Islamic revolution committees lost in the "Security Force" to the police and gendarmerie.

Informed observers say that with one ministry and a common headquarters for the two armed forces (the Army and the Guards Corps), their organizational separation is "unnatural" and "illogical," which must be resolved. But about six months ago the Majles at first remained silent about the bill to combine the armed forces and never discussed it.

It is expected that Hashemi-Rafsanjani will finally be able to have the above-mentioned bill passed in the fourth Majles.

Thousands of Pasdars Transferred to Law Enforcement *92AS0665W Tehran SALAM in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 2*

[Text] Five thousand official revolutionary guard personnel will soon be transferred to the Police Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Brigadier General Guard Commander Naser Khalilzadeh, personnel deputy for the Police Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, discussed this matter in an interview with IRNA. He said that the reason for recruiting the revolutionary guards into the Police Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to make use of their experience.

He discussed the fact that as of next week the project to decentralize the police forces will be implemented. Based on this proposal, he noted, henceforth the awarding of promotions, elections, judicial affairs, and current affairs of the police personnel, in addition to dealing with the problems of the people in view of the relevant regulations, will be transferred to the police precincts.

He discussed the general armed forces staff project to turn over completion of service cards on the last day of service. He added: All those whose last day of service in the police forces is after 18 Bahman this year [7 January 1992] will receive their completion of service cards on the same day.

As of 18 Bahman this year, he added, members of the Police Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be issued completion of service cards on the same day as their last day of service in the police force, to include all duties they have performed in these forces.

The personnel deputy of the Police Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that so far 18 percent of the personnel ranks of the former Islamic revolutionary committee have been announced, and concurrent with Daheh-ye Fajr of the Islamic revolution, the personnel of the Islamic revolutionary committee will receive their ranks.

Pasdaran Programs Announced During Dawn Days *92AS0718A Tehran SALAM in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 2*

[Interview with Gen. Mohammad Reza Movahhedi, deputy commander for propaganda of the central office of publications of the Guards Corps, by reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] All medical, services, and transportation resources of the Guards Corps will be placed at the disposal of the people free of charge during the 10 Days of Dawn.

Gen. Mohammad Reza Movahhedi, the deputy commander for propaganda of the central office of publications of the Guards Corps, said in an interview with reporters on the occasion of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution: Coinciding with the 10 Days of Dawn, the dawn victory maneuver will be carried out by the resistance forces of the mobilization throughout the country.

He added: In this maneuver, the people's struggle, the memories and scenes of the revolution, with trenches in the streets, will be brought to life.

He pointed out: The ceremonies of the 10 Days of Dawn of the Islamic revolution this year will, for the first time, commemorate the Guards Corps artists who have somehow expressed and painted the heroic acts of the combatants during the eight years of the sacred defense.

The deputy for propaganda of the Guards Corps publications, referring to two short films entitled "The Eye of Hope" and "Night Captivity," which will be shown during the 10 Days of Dawn on the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: On the occasion of the 14th spring of freedom, three volumes, entitled RED PAPER FLOWERS (or In Memory of the Martyrs of Khomeyn), were published for the first time, and the book, EIGHT YEARS OF SACRED DEFENSE, went through a second publication.

He added: Coinciding with the publication of the above-mentioned books, the first issue of ASHNA magazine, especially for the families of the Guards Corps, will also be published.

Among the programs of the Guards Corps during the 10 Days of Dawn, General Movahhedi mentioned "re-allegiance with the Imam and the Grand Leader of the Revolution," "special contests on Guards Corps Day," and "the establishment of cultural, artistic, and athletic festivals," as well as the large dawn maneuver by the ground forces of the Guards Corps, commendations for the grand families of the martyrs, the establishment of exhibitions, participation in the 22 Bahman [11 February] march, and a flower parade along the Imam's Road, from the Airport to Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery.

Forces Reportedly Dissatisfied With Merge *92AS0638D London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 12*

[Text] News reports have stated that 5,000 of the official members of the Revolutionary Guards will be transferred to the police forces of the Islamic Republic. This report will be surprising if we remember that the competition and hostility between the Revolutionary Guards and the Islamic Revolutionary Committees was and is so intense that in some cities and in some instances there were even armed clashes between them. In reality, neither the Revolutionary Guards nor the Islamic Revolutionary Committees were happy with

the decision, which was made at high levels by the regime's political leadership, to have them consolidated with sheriff and gendarmerie personnel.

At first this organization was to be called the Police of the Revolution, but at the decisionmaking level some people opposed the name "police" and others opposed the name "revolution." In general the reasoning of these two groups was that the name "police" creates fear in the people (and besides, it is a foreign word), and that instead of affection the name revolution engenders disgust. Thus everyone finally agreed on the name Police Forces of the Islamic Republic, because the Persian word for "police" is much more appealing to the revolution-afflicted people of Iran than the term "revolution."

In the "Police Forces," however, there is a problem for the regime that can only be a source of anxiety for it, in that in

the new organization the personnel of the sheriff's offices and the gendarmerie, who feel closer to each other, number about 150,000, while those in the former Islamic Revolutionary Committees number 20,000 at the most.

Well-informed observers say that "injecting" 5,000 Revolutionary Guardsmen into the Police Forces is mainly to reduce to some extent the heavier weight of the sheriff and the gendarmerie forces to the advantage of forces that were created by the Islamic revolution.

It is worthy of note that the personnel of the sheriff's offices and the gendarmerie on the one hand and the men of the little committees on the other, although they have been placed in the same organization, are still keeping their distance from one another in this single organization.

Foreign Exchange Provisions for Students Increase
92AS0718E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
4 Mar 92 p 12

[Interview with Dr. Mojtaba Saddiqi, director general of scholarships of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, by KEYHAN in Sabzevar; date not given]

[Text] Tehran—KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—8 Esfand-27 February—The foreign currency allotment of Iranian students studying in foreign universities increased by 10-50 percent.

In an interview with KEYHAN correspondent in Sabzevar, Dr. Mojtaba Saddiqi, the director general for scholarships of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, who had traveled to that city, made the above announcement and added: Iranian students in some countries have so far received the increased foreign currency, and the remainder will receive this increase gradually by the end of this year.

Concerning the kinds of scholarships and the situation of students on scholarships, he said: One group of scholarships, known as "government" scholarships, have been signed and these fall under the category of cultural agreements. Another kind are scholarships for which all costs are paid by the foreign host government. The third kind are those that directly involve us and include students who go abroad based on their examinations and are awarded scholarships. We are also working hard in the administration of all scholarships, so as to broaden the fields and expedite the selection of all scholarship students and eliminate their problems. The director general for scholarships of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education mentioned the present policy of the central office of scholarships of sending married students, both men and women, and added:

With regard to the law on sending students, marriage for women is obligatory, and men who are married are given priority.

Concerning the steps taken to expedite the admission acceptance process for students who have passed the examination, Dr. Saddiqi said: With the start of operations and the strengthening of the supervisory offices of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education abroad, and the establishment of educational counseling groups made up of foreign graduates, we are trying to increase our capabilities to permit us to place the latest information about the foreign universities at the disposal of those who have passed the examination. He added: At the present time, a student who has passed the examination and also knows the foreign language—one who also has no problems in terms of commitments and deposits—can be sent abroad within a period of less than six months.

The director general for scholarships of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, on announcing that at the present time about 10,000 students benefit from foreign currency and nonforeign currency facilities, said: Recently, in the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, once again the project of service foreign currency for students was

discussed. From 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], every Iranian student residing abroad may receive \$150 if he so wishes.

Referring to the effect of the foreign currency policy on the living conditions of Iranian students abroad, he said: We are trying not to allow the changes that occur in the foreign currency rates to affect the students abroad. Our needed foreign currency budget is projected in the service foreign currency line of next year's budget, and with the help of the Central Bank, we shall have no problems.

Concerning the obstacles and problems of restarting the supervisory offices for students abroad, he said: Our policy is to rapidly expand the supervisory student offices abroad. At the present time, in addition to India, Canada, and Australia, other offices have been opened, and in the near future, such offices in France, Germany, England, Pakistan, and some Eastern Bloc countries will be opened.

President Inaugurates Giant Sugar Cane Project

92AS0717B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 29 Feb 92 p 8

[Text] AHVAZ (Khuzestan) (IRNA)—The project for expansion of sugar cane and related industries was formally launched here Wednesday in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

According to the plan, seven sugar cane and related industrial units will be built on 84,000 hectares of land in this fertile southwestern province, which, once complete will yield 700,000 tons of sugar annually.

By utilizing the remains of crushed sugar cane the related industries are expected to produce 700,000 tons of livestock feed, 35,000 tons of paper and 100,000 tons of chip board.

At the inaugural function President Rafsanjani called the project "a manifestation of the independence and major ideals of the (Islamic) Revolution."

"The country is in need of the said products, since they have always been imported," he added.

Referring to the start of construction work on three giant projects over the past couple of days, the president said once completed "these will relieve part of the war fatigue of the people of Khuzestan."

He said these infrastructural projects will once again open to the public the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr road along the Karun River which was closed because of the 8-year Iraqi war. The ban on fishing in the Arvand River has already been lifted, he added.

Later, 26 February, the president inspected reconstruction work in the port city of Khorramshahr which was totally razed to the ground by the Ba'athist invaders.

Rafsanjani Inaugurates Karkhah Dam Construction

92AS0717D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 27 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] ANDIMESHK (Khuzestan Prov. 26 February (IRNA)—Construction work on the Karkhah Dam, the

largest in the country, located 20 kms west of this southwestern city, started Tuesday in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The president said that the Dam is among one of the huge development projects underway in the country, whose usefulness will be felt for years to come.

The dam being built over the Karkhah River, a tributary of the Karoon, will irrigate 200,000 hectares of dry farmlands when complete.

In addition to producing electricity, it will help control seasonal floods in the region.

The Karkhah Dam being built by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. is estimated to cost Rials 400B.

The 127-meter high, 3,150-meter long dam, which is 12 meters wide at the crest, is designed to hold 5,572m cubic meters of water.

Minister of Energy Bijan Namdar Zanganeh who was present at the ceremony called the construction of the dam a valuable experience for Iranian engineers.

Zanganeh said the five dams being built in Khuzestan Province over the Karoon River will be capable of producing 5,500 megawatts of electricity when complete.

Volume of Investment in Kish To Exceed 3 Trillion

92AS0665H Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Investment in light industries, the development of activities pertaining to renewed exports, and support of domestic industries through the procurement of raw materials and the development of tourism are among the specific goals for the development of Kish Island.

According to officials of the Kish Development Organization, based on the plans for a free port, by the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], the island will be able to compete with other free ports and be active in the markets of the Persian Gulf region.

This official emphasized that in recent years most of the work done at Kish Island was to provide infrastructure and basic resources, so that within the framework of the goals of the aforementioned plan, this island will be changed into a platform for non-oil exports.

In this regard, in view of the goals of the nation's First Five-year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan with regard to the creation of free trade zones, the Kish Development Organization has taken steps to establish infrastructure installations in such a way that the amount of investments in contracts in this island is more than 1,400 billion rials, and by the end of the year 1373 that volume will reach three trillion rials. The implementation and continuation of these plans depend on the welcome they receive from the public and the nation's economic sectors in terms of investment, stability, laws, and regulations and preventing any kind of economic instability.

He said: The Kish Development Organization is also trying to keep the profits on foreign exchange obtained from renewed exports from neighbor countries to the Islamic

Republic of Iran on Kish Island, and by converting Kish Island into an important economic center and making commercial and trade affairs prosperous, especially in the area of renewed exports, it will use the profits earned on developing the country and making it prosperous.

According to this official, so far in the areas of increasing infrastructure resources such as water, electricity, docks, airport, and tourist resource development, extensive measures have been taken, and the welcome investment has appeared and is rapidly increasing. In this regard, if merchants and Iranians living on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf intend to invest in this free port, this organization welcomes the move in view of the conditions created, and in this way the free trade zones will prosper and develop.

On the other hand, by providing full facilities and granting a 30 percent discount on commercial profits to attract importers to Kish Island, as of the month of Azar [22 November - 21 December] this year, the Kish Development Organization will be creating new facilities.

This exemption, in view of the fact that goods accompanying travelers to Kish are assessed based on the competitive foreign exchange rate, will cause the economy of Kish Island and the adjoining areas to prosper with regard to domestic freight costs.

Food Prices Reported Steadily Increasing in Mazandaran

92AS0665T Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Jan 92 p 15

[Text] Nowshahr—IRNA correspondent—Brokers, middlemen, and tradesmen are setting the prices for petrochemical products and food in West Mazandaran. Most consumers, especially the vulnerable classes in the areas of Nur, Nowshahr, Tonokabon, and Ramsar, are complaining about the lack of a base price and the existence of doubled and unregulated prices on goods purchased from the sales outlets.

In the past two weeks the price of mutton has gone from 3,000 rials per kilogram to 3,400 rials, and beef and lamb has gone from 1,800 rials to more than 3,300 rials, a carton of eggs has gone from 1,800 rials to 2,100 rials, and (liqvan-e charb) cheese has increased from 2,100 rials to 2,400 rials.

On the other hand, despite the availability of local cheese for as little as 1,400 rials in West Azarbayjan, consumers, fearing infection by the (brusluz) disease, avoid local cheese as much as possible. According to consumers, while producers and sellers are hitting the deprived classes as hard as they can with high prices on petrochemical materials and food, the appropriate officials in this part of Mazandaran supervise only high prices. Likewise, a number of butchers in West Azarbayjan, on the justification that buyers in the provinces adjacent to Mazandaran are paying more for livestock, claim that the daily transfer of hundreds of head of livestock from the Torkeman Sahra area to neighboring areas has been effective in dealing with the shortages and ever-increasing prices of red meat.

Recently, according to this merchant, once a week 30 to 50 head of live and butchered sheep from the Torkeman Sahra

area were available for sale on the meat market, but now, in addition to the problem of transporting them from the Turkman Sahran, Behshahr and Quchan areas, it is difficult to obtain more than 20 head of livestock per week.

Consumers say that the pricing of red meat, cheese, eggs, and other needed foodstuffs is not being done in the desired way by any logic by producers, middlemen and sellers in comparison with the incomes of the deprived classes, and their hopes for the implementation of laws pertaining to the official supervision of the work of merchants have been dashed. Yet the planning shortfalls in the areas of animal husbandry, industrial expansion and the production of livestock and feed in West Azarbayjan in the municipalities of Nur, Nowshahr, Tonokabon, and Ramsar alone are more than 311,000 head of sheep and goats, and 214,000 head of cows and calves.

First Phase of Repairs on Offshore Rigs Completed

92AS0717E Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Tehran, 24 February (IRNA)—Phase-I of reconstruction work has been completed on Bahregan and Hendijan offshore oil fields in the Persian Gulf, which were closed since the start of the Iraqi war in September 1980, an Oil Ministry official said here Monday.

"Once fully repaired, Bahregan will produce some 20,000 barrels of oil per day," Seyyed Mostafa Khoei, managing director of Iran's Offshore Oil Company told IRNA.

Another 30,000 bpd of crude will be obtained from the Abuzar offshore platform, 70 kms west of Iran's Kharg Island when the drilling rig is rebuilt, he said.

In the nearby Salman field drilling of the first well is under way in the gas-rich Khouf region, whose reserves have been estimated at seven trillion cubic feet, he said.

With the drilling of two more wells, the area is expected to yield between 800m to one billion cubic feet of gas, said Khoei.

Indigenous Oil Drilling Machine Put Into Operation

92AS0717C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 29 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] AHWAZ (Khuzestan Prov.), 28 February (IRNA)—The 40th oil drilling machine was put into operation in the Dar Khuwain area near Khorramshahr in this southwestern province Wednesday.

The \$15m machine built by experts of the National Drilling Company (NDC), is capable of drilling up to a depth of 9,000 meters, and would save the country \$1m per year in foreign exchange.

Oil Minister Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh who was present at the inaugural function, called the NDC as one of the country's basic industries, and said its development should keep pace with the technological progress in the world.

He said the oil industry has taken great strides over the years, and Iran is ready to transfer oil technology and its experience in this vital field to other countries.

He also disclosed, the budget allocates \$4,000m in foreign exchange for the oil and related industries.

According to the NDC managing director, Jalili, who was also present at the ceremony, 70 oil and gas wells have been drilled by the company this year.

He added that after the Islamic Revolution the company has made rapid strides, and saved the country yearly \$500m worth in foreign exchange.

Gas Exports To Double, Says Official

92AS0717F Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 25 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] ARAK (Central Prov.), 24 February (IRNA)—Iran's natural gas exports will be doubled to 6b cubic meters annually from 5 March onwards this year.

According to the managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Salehi Forouz, here Sunday, the country's proven gas reserves currently stand at 17t cubic meters.

Forouz, who is on an inspection tour of this industrial city, said \$200m are to be allocated next calendar year (starting 21 March) for the purchase of pipes to expand the nationwide gas network.

He said the joint venture involves NIGC, and the ministries of Heavy Industries, and Mines and Metals, and in addition, part of the required pipes will be supplied by the Commerce Ministry.

Presently, one million housing units throughout the country have piped gas facilities, and with the expansion of the network each year 300,000 more would be added to the present list of consumers, said Forouz.

In addition, he said, 1,000 industrial units and a large power station in Iran receive gas as fuel.

The NIGC chief, disclosed that according to a plan, over the next ten years the number of towns and cities having piped gas facilities would reach 215 with priority being given to regions with cold climates and to provincial towns.

At present, he noted, 90 city gas projects are operating while piping is underway in 140 other towns and cities.

Al-Mehdi Aluminum Complex Inaugurated

92AS0665F Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] The administrative building of the Al-Mehdi Aluminum Complex was inaugurated yesterday at Bandar 'Abbas.

Engineer Mahluji, minister of mines and metals, spoke at the opening ceremonies and noted that the project to build the Al-Mehdi Aluminum Complex was a new and important experiment for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He called for the cooperation and attention of the province officials, and those of the nation, to assist in the rapid execution of the administrative aspects of this project.

The Bandar 'Abbas Aluminum Foundry will be built 20 km from this city.

The presence of the great Bandar 'Abbas Electrical Power Station and the dock being built near this plant for loading and unloading ores were among the factors considered for building the aluminum plant in this area.

The cost of building the Bandar 'Abbas aluminum plant was estimated at \$1.5 billion; 60 percent of the products of this factory will be delivered to the Dubayy International Development Company and the other 40 percent will be delivered to the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

This complex began its work in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] with a capacity of 230,000 tons of annual aluminum production.

A dock to bring in the aluminum and other raw materials such as carbon and tar is envisioned; it should handle 60,000 ton ships. Construction began some time ago, and already a significant part of the dredging of the harbor and installing of the posts have been completed.

One-Third of Factory Stocks Transferred to Workers

92AS0665Q Tehran SALAM in Persian 18 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] To increase production, 33 percent of the shares of the factories under the mantle of the Ministry of Government Homes and Organizations will be transferred to their workers.

Thursday [16 January] morning at a national seminar for Islamic societies in companies under the Iran National Industries Organization, Hoseyn Kemali, minister of labor and social affairs, gave a talk in which he discussed the above. He said: The guidelines pertaining to the transfer of 33 percent of the shares of government factories to their workers are in their final stages, and the shares that were formerly held by the workers are not part of this amount to be transferred to the workers.

With regard to the New Year bonuses and gifts, he said: If the Majles approves the government's bill, the ceiling on the New Year bonuses and gifts for workers will increase from 85,000 rials to 150,000 rials this year. The minister of labor and social affairs expressed the hope that the Majles will approve the aforementioned bill. He advised the factory managers and workers and the members of the Islamic councils and societies of these units to study carefully the laws and regulations pertaining to the workers' environment, because many of the problems of production units arise from the lack of awareness on the part of workers and foremen of the Labor Law.

Hoseyn Kemali cautioned managers, workers and members of the Islamic councils and societies of factories to avoid doing things that will create confusion in the workers' environment. He also emphasized the importance and necessity to create an active industrial society and to understand the culture of communal labor by managers and workers in the nation's producing units. IRNA reports that as this three-day seminar continued its work, Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, our country's minister of industries, delivered a speech during which he discussed the changes that have taken place recently in the world. He emphasized to workers, managers, and members of the Islamic councils

and societies of factories that they must increase their technical knowledge and education, and achieve the goals and aspirations of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran through the application of advanced technology.

In this regard he said: The world is now undergoing intense change and the course of these changes leads toward Islam's benefit, but the continuation of this depends on the extent of the labor and efforts of workers and other classes of society. This seminar, which convened on 10/24/70 [14 January 1991] at the Balal Habashi Mosque of the Visage of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the sponsorship of the Iran National Industries Organization, concluded its work Thursday afternoon with the issuance of a resolution.

Bandar 'Abbas Aluminum Complex Construction Begins

92AS0663E Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Jan 92 p 9

[Text] The administrative building of the al-Mahdi assembly plant was inaugurated yesterday morning in Bandar 'Abbas.

In the ceremonies opening this building, Engineer Mahluji, the minister of mines and metals, spoke of the plan to build the al-Mahdi aluminum complex as a new and important experience for the Islamic Republic.

He asked for the cooperation and attention of national and provincial officials to achieve the rapid implementation of all stages concerning this project.

The Bandar 'Abbas aluminum smelting factory will be built 20 km outside this city.

The presence of the large Bandar 'Abbas power plant and the dock which is under construction for loading and unloading minerals near this complex are among the specified conditions this region has establish to build the aluminum factory.

The cost of building the Bandar 'Abbas aluminum factory has been estimated at \$1.5 billion. After the completion of the operations, 60 percent of the products of the factory will be placed at the disposal of the Dubai International Development Company and 40 percent at the disposal of the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

This complex will begin operations in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] with a capacity of 2,300 tons.

A dock with a capacity for 60,000 for the transportation of aluminum and raw materials, including carbon and tar, was taken under consideration. Construction began some time ago and at the present a large portion of the dredging of the site and the installation of pillars have been completed.

Phosphate Deposits Estimated at 456 Million Tons

92AS0665J Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Iran Mines Corporation reports that the nation's known phosphate reserves in the areas to the north of Tehran, Zanjan, Shahrud, Behbahan, Dehdasht, Ramhormoz, and Bafq, are estimated at 456 million tons.

In view of nation's consumption of 2.5 million tons of phosphate fertilizer, obtaining such reserves and the byproducts of this mineral substance in the country would replace annual imports of 600 tons of phosphate ores valued at millions of dollars. In accordance with existing plans, the Iran Mines Corporation, by creating a phosphate mixing plant at Bafq's Asfurdi Mine in Yazd, whose executive operations are being carried out, will procure 1.5 [as published] of the nation's annual consumption needs.

In view of the importance of phosphate ore and its consumption in industry, exploration and study are continuing as much as possible throughout the country, and search operations for phosphate have begun in the areas of Dehloran, Ilam, Gorgan, Kiyasar, Bakhteran, Sanandaj, Abadeh, Abarkuh, and Andimshak by the national phosphate exploration project to find new deposits.

Lowshan 360-Megawatt Power Plant Operational *92AS0665K Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Jan 92 p 1*

[Text] SALAM's correspondent reports:

The 360-megawatt Lowshan power plant, which suffered basic and extensive damage in the earthquakes in the northern areas last year, is operational again after a suspension of about one and a half years.

Iranian experts, who played a basic role in all phases of the reopening of this plant, will open today the steam units of this plant in the presence of a number of officials and representatives of organizations involved.

At the opening ceremonies for this power plant, which will be attended by the deputy minister of power, the executive director of the Tavanir company, in addition to local officials such as the governor-general, the governor and the local Friday imam, a number of representatives of the government organizations involved and a number of press correspondents will also attend.

It is necessary to mention that the 360-megawatt Lowshan power plant has four separate units, two steam units with 240 megawatts power and two gas units with 120 megawatts power.

Our correspondent reports that the gas units of this power plant, due to having suffered smaller, inconsequential amounts of damage, were reconstructed in the very first days after the earthquake, but due to the severity of the damage done to the two steam units at the Lowshan power plant, their reconstruction was delayed and finally, through the efforts of Iranian experts and specialists, all the problems and damage caused were repaired and thus the two 240-megawatt steam units of this plant were ready to go into operation.

Over 46 Percent of Northern Forests Destroyed *92AS0728A London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Feb 92 p 4*

[News Report]

[Text] Over the last decades, desert areas in Iran have been continually increasing whereas the country's forests are fast being destroyed. According to the report of international

experts, during the last 30 years, at least 55 percent of the total meadow lands in the country and approximately one third of the forests in the north and western parts have been destroyed. These experts also warn that if no remedial steps are taken, the pace of the destruction of forests in Iran will accelerate and, in the not too distant future, livestock owners will find no pasture lands left for grazing, nor will there be any forests for natural or commercial use.

One of the experts working for the organization for environment stated recently that the gradual destruction of Iran's green spaces and, in particular, the forests bordering the north and other areas had endangered the environment of the country's inhabitants; moreover, the continuing destruction of forests and meadow lands had devastated the greater portion of Iran's natural wealth. Engineer Foruzesh, minister for construction jihad of the Islamic Republic, who visited Hamadan recently, noted that over the last three decades, 33 per cent of Iran's forests had perished. He said, "The total meadow land area in the country in 1341 was 90 million hectares and total forest area in that year was 18 million hectares which, as a result of thoughtless destruction, had been reduced to 50 and 12 million hectares respectively," he added, "The process of the destruction of natural resources continues, so much so that today, 300 to 400 square metres of fields and forests disappear every second." The minister for construction jihad placed the total forest areas of the north at 1.9 million [hectares?] at the present time and said, "From 1341 to the present time, more than 46 per cent of the forests in the north have been devastated."

In the course of his speech, the minister referred to the process of desertification taking place in the country and the rapid expansion of desert areas and said, "From 1341 to 1369, desert and waste lands in the country had increased from 12 million to 15 million hectares." Engineer Foruzesh called the rapid expansion of desert areas in the country very alarming and said that during the last 30 years, desert and barren lands in the country had increased by 25 per cent.

Sewage Complex in 20 Large Cities

92AS0718C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA' in Persian 4 Mar 92 p 10

[Text] Tehran—6 Esfand-25 February—The sewage network project will be carried out in 20 large cities.

Engineer Manuchehri, the deputy minister of energy for urban water and sewage, made the above announcement and said: Providing safe drinking water, collecting and disposing of sewage, and the protection of the environment play a strategic role in the fate of the nations.

He added: Based on the latest statistics of the World Health Organization, 80 percent of all diseases in the Third World countries and 33 percent of the deaths result from lack of safe drinking water and a system for the disposal of sewage in cities. The problem of providing water, both in terms of quality and quantity, has become a subject of serious discussion in the world. Because of the high urban population growth and the shortage of rainfall and needed water, if our country, which will have 72 million in 1390 [21 March

2011-20 March 2012], has no comprehensive plan and the necessary investment and mobilization in this connection, will face great problems in the future, beginning today.

In regards to the development of the water outreach network of the country, he said: At the present, there are, in 110 cities of the country, relatively large water projects underway, the largest of which are the water outreach projects for the cities of Tabriz, Zahedan, Bushehr, and some of the cities of the Provinces of Esfahan, Bakhtaran, and Bandar 'Abbas.

Pointing out the need of implementing the collection and disposal of urban sewage projects, Engineer Manuchehri continued: During the past years, unfortunately, together with the water outreach projects, no attention was paid to the revitalization of the urban sewage collection and disposal. This will cause in the future the pollution of surface and underground water.

He added: Of about 500 cities in the country, only 45 cities, which have 50 percent of the urban population, have sewage systems. On the whole, of the 30 million people of the urban population, only 2.5 million people have safe sewage systems.

With respect to the development of the sewage network in the cities, he said: About 20 cities are in the sewage network development, including Tabriz, Mashhad, Shahr-e Kord, Borujen, Khorramabad, Bakhtaran, Esfahan, Ahvaz, Mahshahr, Sarband, Shadegan, and Qom. At the same time, the construction of sewage systems in 50 other cities is under consideration.

Concerning the goals and policies of establishing a nongovernment water and sewage company in the capitals of the provinces of the country, Engineer Manuchehri said: The establishment of these companies is for the purpose of promoting the quality and quantity of the activities regarding water and sewage in the country, proper use of the existing capacities, and investment and use of facilities to provide water and sewage disposal in the cities.

Energy Ministry To Construct 70 Dams

92AS0717A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 2 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] ARAK (Central Prov.), 1 March (IRNA)—A total of 70 dams are to be built by the Energy Ministry throughout the country by the end of the current five year plan in 1995, the Energy Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said here Sunday.

Work is underway on 20 dam projects at present, and construction of ten more dams will start during the next calendar year (21 March), Zanganeh said.

He said, the government, attaches more importance to development projects to provide electricity and irrigation water for the industrial and agricultural sectors than importing consumer goods.

Building a dam requires at least five years and huge capital investment, said Zanganeh, pointing to the benefits of a dam for growing crops, and meeting the country's drinking water and electricity needs.

Country's Largest Fertilizer Plant to Be Constructed

92AS0665M Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] The (Tuman) and (Kawazaki) heavy industry companies, along with the (Kolag) English engineering company were the winners in their bid to build a huge chemical fertilizer plant in Iran.

According to information obtained from reliable sources, this complex—the largest plant producing urea and ammoniac in Iran—will be built at a cost of 46.6 billion yen (or \$358 million) in the city of Bojnurd in Khorasan Province.

According to the project presented, the aforementioned plant, whose annual capacity is 500,000 tons of urea and 300,000 tons of ammoniac, will be fueled by natural gas from the Sarkhas reserves, and will go into operation in the fall of 1994.

It is worth noting that 85 percent of the costs of building this complex will be provided by the Import-Export Bank of Japan, partially government run, and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which after a 13-year suspension, will for the first time provide government insurance for this transaction.

The (Tuman) company, which is a commercial company, is the principal party in this contract, and the (Kawazaki) heavy industry company is responsible for procuring the machinery and implementing the project, and an English company is responsible for presenting the preliminary project.

Housing Said To Consume 35 Percent of Family Spending

92AS0665V Tehran SALAM in Persian 29 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Iran proposed joint investments to the Federal Republic of Germany to build and equip 100,000 housing units.

This proposal was made yesterday morning by Engineer 'Ali Kamrava, deputy minister of housing for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction, at a joint Iran-Germany construction industries symposium at the Housing Companies Syndicate.

At this symposium, which was formed through the efforts of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction, the Construction Companies' Syndicate of the Federal Republic of Germany's Ministry of Regional Planning, Housing and City Planning, the German Construction Industries Union, and our country's Specialist Union of Equipment for Construction and Materials Production, Engineer Kamrava said: With the end of the imposed war the urban population rose to 55 percent and the rural population to 45 percent of the total population.

He mentioned several statistics and discussed the expenses of each family. He said: In Iran 35 percent of family

expenditures go for housing. Engineer Kamrava added: Already 47 percent of the nation's total investment goes to the housing sector, which is not indicative of a desirable situation.

The deputy minister of housing for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction emphasized: In the housing sector it is expected that 95 percent of the investment will be made by the private sector and 5 percent will be made by the government. The most recent assessment shows that the government's share is less than what it should be, and the private sector's share is larger.

Noting that 45 percent of the land is provided by the government, he said: The housing policy in the Five-year Plan is to build masses of housing units, so that the foundation of each unit will be a maximum of 100 square meters. He announced that the average area of the housing units in the Islamic Republic of Iran is more than 140 square meters noting that this figure is higher than all the nations of Europe except Belgium.

He continued: The construction of mass housing needs advanced technology, and in this regard the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction and the private sector are prepared for any kind of cooperation. He proposed that a combination of German construction companies and machinery manufacturers along with a combination of these companies in Iran take on the job of building 100,000 housing units in the next five years. In this regard the government will be willing to bring the foreign exchange of foreign investors into the country at fixed rates, and it will export it at the same price along with the profits earned from that, which will be based on the floating foreign exchange rate.

He also said that the government will guarantee the sale of these housing units, and if there is no buyer, the government will buy all of them.

Mr. (Von Lunisch), German deputy minister of regional planning, housing and city planning, addressed this symposium. He said: The signing of the memorandum of mutual understanding that took place during the German minister of economy's trip to Tehran was the beginning of extensive cooperation between Iran and Germany. He emphasized that Germany is willing to engage in any kind of cooperation and also to invest in this area. He noted: The companies producing construction raw materials and the German construction machinery industries are prepared to cooperate extensively with Iran in the area of joint investments.

Then Engineer Seyyed Reza Hashemi, deputy ministry of urban construction for our country's Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction, added: During the time since the memorandum of mutual understanding was signed on 30 June 1991 (9 Tir 1370) we have seen extensive cooperation with Germany in various economic matters. He emphasized: During various meetings and talks the current situation and the internal affairs in Germany's future construction situation were outlined. It was also explained the direction that the government would be taking and those

running the construction institutions and companies, and in general those running Iran's reconstruction and construction development.

In conclusion, he called for the removal of any obstacles and problems related to the joint cooperation between the two countries. In the same symposium, attended by about 500 private sector and government housing experts and engineers, Engineer Javad Khansari, the secretary of the Construction Companies Syndicate, also discussed the special place held by the construction industries in Iran's economy. He said: Already 600 construction companies in Iran along with 1,200 companies in other parts of Iran, with about 10,000 construction engineers, are active. At the end of his talk, he emphasized that with the cooperation from the private sector, the government intends to carry out Iran's reconstruction effectively. He noted that at this symposium, ways of cooperation as well as joint investment were considered.

The next speaker at this symposium was the representative of the German Union of Construction Industries. He announced that to expand construction cooperation between Iran and Germany, a special exhibition hall in the areas of industry, machinery, and construction materials will be established in Tehran.

The establishment of this exhibition hall will be specifically to demonstrate the latest technology in Germany in the area of the building industry.

The representative of the German machinery and construction materials industry also called for the removal of barriers in the regulations.

He pointed out that the cooperation will have positive and fruitful results when Iran and Germany reach the necessary mutual understanding and agreement on the implementation of international regulations.

This symposium began yesterday and will continue its work for three days at the Housing Companies Syndicate; it will conclude by presenting all the issues as a group.

First Housing Unit Factory Inaugurated in Hamadan

92AS0665U Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Jan 92 p 15

[Text] Hamadan—SALAM correspondent—Yesterday morning, on the eve of the blessed Daheh-ye Fajr and during ceremonies attended by Jahromi, governor-general, deputy governors-general and a group of local officials, the first factory building concrete housing and education units in the western part of the country was inaugurated. This factory, whose building agreement in principle was issued in the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] by the Ministry of Industries and was built on a 17-hectare site, had its management transferred to the Housing Organization in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], and until now, with its final production line in operation, including the cost of purchasing and installing the required equipment, it has cost over 3.5 billion rials.

The foundation alone of this great production complex is 6,000 square meters. The water needed by its various units is procured through the digging of a semi-deep well with a

2,500 cubic meter capacity. This plant's rock-breaking and sand-washing unit, with a daily capacity to produce 800 cubic meters of broken, washed and granulated materials, was built and put into operation in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. The mountain rock quarry that supplies the plant is 18 km away in Kurijan, with estimated reserves of 30 million tons and authorized annual extraction of 100,000 tons of raw materials.

The Beching unit, with a production capacity of 240 cubic meters of concrete per day, has been installed and put into operation. Likewise, the plant's two-story administrative building, with 1,300 square meters of foundation, was built and put into operation using the plant's products. The primary function of that plant is to produce 300 housing units with a foundation of 30,000 square meters per year, which can be increased to twice that amount. Currently this complex is able to produce and install 30 ten-class educational units in two four-story buildings per year.

The residential and educational buildings completed can withstand earthquakes measuring 7.5 and 8.5 on the Richter scale, and this extraordinary strength is guaranteed at the time the buildings are occupied. It is worth noting that this plant will be serving the provinces of Kordestan, Bakhteran, Ilam and Hamadan.

Metro Lines to Become Operational in Three Years

92AS0723N London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] Operations to equip and put into operation lines one and two of the metro will be completed in the next three to three and a half years. The executive director of the Metro Company reported this recently to news correspondents and media representatives during a news conference. He said that the chief obstacles to completing the metro construction project in Tehran are insufficient credit, problems related to limited availability of cement, as well as regulations on getting authorization from the Municipality of Tehran to dig and connect the tunnels. The official told reporters that the Metro Company has monthly expenses of 600 to 700 million tomans (about 20 to 25 million tomans daily). He added: These amounts, which must be obtained from the Bank of Commerce and the National Bank, do not meet the needs of this company.

Asghar Ebrahimi, executive director of the Metro Company, was asked by reporters when the final phase of the metro's construction would be. He said: It is expected that the tunnel construction work, which is considered the main task in the metro's construction, as well as the Tehran-Karaj-Mehshahr and Mirdamad-Beheshte-e Zahra lines which include about 30 km of tunnels and 60 km of surface rail, will be completed by the end of the year 1371 [20 March 1993] and ready for the laying down of rails.

The official discussed the procedure for getting the cars, the electrical power plant, and other technical equipment for the metro. He said: Concerning the construction of the cars, we have made international calls for bids among a number of consortiums from Europe and various countries, and the prices quoted by most were very high. Consequently, delegations were sent to Brazil, Argentina, South Korea, the

Soviet Union, and China and presented the bidding papers to car manufacturing companies; then we had more reasonable prices.

Asghar Ebrahimi added: We were able to find a suitable type of car with full possibility for transferring the technology, building it domestically, quick construction and fast delivery schedule. In any case, our foreign partner for building the cars will be named within the next two or three months. The executive director of the Metro Company discussed the procurement of electrical power needed for starting the metro. He said: The electrical power for the metro will be obtained with a 45-megawatt gas power station to be built by the French (GSC Alstom) company at the final station and the parking site of Tehran Line One. The official discussed how the foreign exchange needed to build the metro was to be obtained. He said: The foreign exchange needed for the metro will be obtained by mining granite, china clay, marble and (marbleite) from the Kolar-dasht and Dasht-e Moghan mines, exporting furnace oil and tar, and from the output of iron mines. He added: Through arrangements made with the Central Bank, the foreign exchange needed for the metro will be spread over a four-year period by the banks who are signatories to the contracts during the equipping phase, and the Metro Company will repay the funds within a seven-year period out of its own resources. In another part of his press conference the executive director of the Metro Company told reporters that this company has so far received 14 billion tomans to build tunnels, stations, air cleaners, and other things from the Bank of Commerce and the National Bank in the framework of the civil partnership contract.

New Airport Tariffs for Various Cars Announced

92AS0723O London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] The customs office of the Islamic Republic announced the customs tariffs for 38 of the latest models of passenger automobiles of various types and two models of vanettes. At the top of the list of customs tariffs for various types of passenger automobiles built abroad was the S-300 Mercedes Benz. Islamic Republic Customs announced that the customs tariff for this type of automobile will be about 5.3 million tomans. The announcement from Islamic Republic Customs states that importers of the Honda Accord will pay 1.1 million tomans, for the German BMW 520 2.8 million tomans, and the Toyota station wagon 1.6 million toman.

The economic reporter for the Tehran newspaper KEYHAN filed an article titled "The Parade of the Latest Models of Automobiles in Tehran" in which he criticized the policies of the Islamic regime's customs office, and claimed that these policies have turned the streets of Tehran into a mobile exhibition hall for Japanese and European automobile manufacturers.

Part of the article said: Insiders report that it is not that clear who is importing these automobiles despite the prohibition on automobile imports. Although some time ago the import of automobiles by Iranian graduate students and official employees returning to Iran from abroad was permitted, according to these insiders, the daily-increasing numbers of

the latest models of automobiles, especially on the streets of Tehran, could not be coming in only through this source.

Rafsanjan Airport Begins Operations

92AS0663C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 23 Jan 92 p 13

[Text] Coinciding with the 10 days of Fajr, the Rafsanjan Airport strip will begin operations.

Engineer Ba'ian, the official in charge of this plan, said yesterday: Considering the existence of copper mines and pistachio orchards and the establishment of commercial and academic centers in the region, the planning of this airport was necessary. This airport, when in full operation, will be able to offer the best service to airplanes by making use of the best flight site and the installation of weather stations.

He added that this airport is being built on 800 hectares of land and includes secondary facilities, among them a passenger lobby and administrative rooms. Through the efforts of the past year the digging of a deep well and the installation of a 12-km, 20-kilowatt electricity network and 30 10-km long, double telephone lines have been completed. Also, the construction operations of the air strip of this airport, which is 3,200 meters long and 45 meters wide, is about to be completed and will become operational during the 10 blessed days of Fajr.

He also said that the operation of this airport will facilitate the landing and take off of charter and private airplanes.

The official in charge of the execution of the plan for the Rafsanjan Airport said: Now, with the installation of two asphalt and stone-crushing factories and the creation of workshops equipped to provide the materials needed for this airport, work on the construction of secondary buildings is proceeding rapidly. With the expansion of this airport and the completion of the secondary facilities in the next eight months, all passenger and other planes can fly directly to this city from other parts of the country.

He noted that forty percent of the cost of this important project, which will cost 4 billion rials, has been provided by the copper industries company and the remainder by the Governor's Office, the people, and the Rafsanjan pistachio company.

Abadan Airport To Handle International Flights

92AS0663B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Jan 92 p 13

[Text] Abadan Airport will soon be ready to handle international flights.

Tavalla'i, the governor general of Khuzestan, announced this statement on Thursday afternoon during a visit to Abadan Airport. Emphasizing the need to expedite the reconstruction and equipment of Abadan Airport, he said: It is necessary to continue the special Ahvaz bus lines to Abadan Airport, as before.

Tasking Armed Forces With Reconstruction Lauded

92AS0720D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 29 Feb 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Post-War Reconstruction Task of Armed Forces"]

[Text] President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani during his tour of southern Iran broke the ground for construction of Karkhah Dam, in the Khuzestan Province, which will be the largest in Iran and one of the biggest dams in the world. The president said that the dam is among one of the huge development projects underway in the country, whose usefulness will be felt for years to come. The dam will provide water for irrigation purpose for some 200,000 hectares of farmlands. This dam will be built with the cooperation of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Ministry of Energy.

Following the end to the Iraqi imposed war in 1988, the Islamic Republic of Iran entered into a new era, namely the reconstruction period. Iran's First Five Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan currently under implementation, is the focal point of all reconstruction and development efforts undertaken in this country.

One of the initiatives of the Islamic Republic government with respect to the development and reconstruction projects is to use the services of the armed forces, including Basij, IRGC and Army. Participation of the IRGC personnel in building the Karkhah Dam is part of this initiative.

It is needless to say, all those volunteers including engineers, technicians and skilled and unskilled workers, who participated in the war can serve as an efficient in the post-war reconstruction activities. It is amply clear that during the Iraqi imposed war the Iranian combat engineering units planned and implemented some remarkable initiatives. Among them are the designing and constructing of a 14 km. long pontoon bridge (most probably the longest ever made in history of wars which connected Iranian land to the

liberated Iraqi Majnoon Islands. Later on, another group of combat engineers built a road within a limited period in lieu of the bridge through the swamps surrounding the islands. Both these activities were carried out under heavy Iraqi artillery and air bombardments.

The armed forces combat engineering personnel gained good experience with respect to construction engineering during the war. Therefore, while they maintain their combat readiness, they can participate in the post-war development projects such as building dams, bridges, roads, structures for various purposes such as schools, universities and even hospitals in the deprived areas of the country where implementation of such projects by civilian contractors will mean incurring expenses, which can be avoided.

It should be noted that every year a large number of young, energetic male force, usually between the ages of 18 to 30 with a variety of skills, enroll themselves for their two-year military service. This huge task force, after completing the necessary military training, can be channeled towards the country's reconstruction activities, particularly in the war-damaged areas. This will assist the government to reduce the reconstruction and development projects' costs.

Air Force Equipped With Russian Fighter Planes

92AS0638C London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] The Iranian Air Force has been equipped with three kinds of Russian aircraft, the MiG-29, the Sukhoy-24, and the F-7. Brigadier General Sattari, commander of the Air Force of the Army of Iran, who was visiting the Air Force base at Semnan, announced this to the press.

The contract to deliver the Russian aircraft to the Islamic Republic was signed between Rafsanjani and Gorbachev, president of the republic of the Soviet Union at the time, during a trip that Hashemi-Rafsanjani made in 1989 before he was elected president of the republic and before the Soviet Union collapsed.

Garbage Heaps Threaten Health in Yasuj*92WN0341B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 Jan 92 p 4*

[Text] The accumulation of garbage in several parts of the city of Yasuj threatens the health of the families in these areas.

In the past few years, certain locations in various parts of the city have been allocated for the accumulation of garbage. Due to the growth in housing production and an increase in family population, these locations have become sources of pollution.

The transport of garbage accumulated outside the city is sometimes disrupted.

Around some areas where garbage is accumulated in the city are education centers and offices. The officials and employees of these offices say that despite the many efforts and follow-ups, so far no one has paid attention to this problem.

One of the teachers said: I speak about health care in the classroom while the stench of the garbage permeates the classroom, and the students complain about the situation.

An informed source in the health care of the environment of the province refers to the inappropriateness of the location of garbage dumps in the city of Yasuj added: In order to solve this problem, the City Hall must buy a plot of land, build a wall around it, and prepare new areas for this purpose.

The deputy mayor of Yasuj also said in this connection: The present special places for the accumulation of garbage were determined through a decision by several departments, whereas the health and environmental office should have chosen an appropriate place and announced it to the City Hall.

He said: At the present, the City Hall, due to the lack of resources, is unable to purchase a plot of land for this purpose.

Officials View Establishment of Industrial University*92AS0663A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Jan 92 p 9*

[Text] Ahvaz—ABRAR correspondent—The plan to establish the Industrial University of Khuzestan Province and the participation of the industries of the province in establishing and operating this university were discussed during a meeting with Mr. Tavalla'i, the governor general of Khuzestan.

Mr. Tavalla'i emphasized the necessity and importance of training local resources and said: The volume of government investments in the Province of Khuzestan in the five-year plan can only have the desired results if the manpower needed for this investment is selected from among the people in the region to be given the necessary training.

He also mentioned the importance of investments in this area and asked the managers of industry in the province to participate in the operations of the Industrial University of the Province of Khuzestan.

The governor general of Khuzestan added that with the awareness of the people of this important issue, they, too, as the people in other parts of the country, will make every effort to ensure the scientific growth and the development of their children. During the same meeting, the preliminary plan for the university was presented and it was decided to form a committee to select the board of trustees and present the governor general of Khuzestan with methods of implementation.

Over Billion Rials Appropriated for Treatment Units*92AS0665X Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Feb 92 p 15*

[Text] Semnan—SALAM correspondent—The groundbreaking ceremonies for a health clinic for teachers in this province was attended by the deputy minister of education for administrative and financial affairs, the governor-general of Semnan, and a number of provincial officials.

The clinic will be built on a 48,000-square meter site covering an area of 4,000 square meters; it will have pediatrics, gynecology, maternity, dental, radiology and laboratory departments.

Construction is to begin next year and the project will have a budget of 800 million rials.

Mr. Muid, deputy minister of education for administrative and financial affairs, announced in an interview with news correspondents attending the above ceremonies that a budget of 1.2 billion rials has been provided to build health clinics for teachers throughout the country next year.

He added: To procure consumer goods for the teacher cooperatives, 25 billion rials in loans have been allocated—50 percent interest free.

Regarding the construction materials for the teachers' housing units, he said:

This year \$30 million in foreign exchange for construction materials has been provided, and so far 60 percent of this budget has already been assigned, and the rest will be assigned by the end of the year [20 March].

The Majles has provided about the same amount for next year for construction materials.

Difficulties of Service Complexes Examined*92AS0665L Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Jan 92 p 11*

[Text] Ferdows—SALAM correspondent reports:

During a meeting attended by the general health care manager of Khorasan Province, the governor and health care officials of Ferdows and its affiliated districts, the problems and difficulties for service, support and health care complexes in the Municipality of Ferdows were studied, and decisions were made. Emphasis was given to expanding health care activities in the area, and plans were made to establish service and health care complexes in the near future in heavily-populated villages and village centers through notes and the Planning Council, with the cooperation of the governor of Ferdows and its affiliated districts.

On the other hand, an official from the Municipality of Ferdows Office of Health Care, in an interview with our correspondent, also announced the most important activities of this office to help the deprived, and said: The percentage of aid from this office to the oppressed and handicapped has increased 18 percent, and currently the Support Branch of the Ferdows Office of Health Care is providing material and spiritual aid to 210 unemployed families without heads, including 1,050 people, and 2.914 million rials is paid monthly to these dear ones. In the rehabilitation branch 157 handicapped families are also covered and 1.8 million rials is paid monthly in pensions to these dear ones. He added: In addition, noncash assistance including clothing, writing supplies, medical assistance, and building repairs are other activities of the Ferdows Office of Health Care. He added: In the last six months, a residential unit was built for a handicapped person at a cost of six million rials out of public assistance and credits from this office, and two residential units are now being built and will be in use by the end of the current year [20 March 1992]. He concluded by saying: In addition, a windmill in one of the Ferdows area villages has been turned over to a handicapped person, and measures have also been taken to find work and employment for clients. He noted: In the last nine months, a total of 42 million rials in cash assistance and pensions has been paid to clients.

Water Pollution Threatens Health in Karand-e Gharb

92WN0341C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Jan 92 p 9

[Text] Severe drinking water pollution threatens the health of the city of Karand-e Gharb and threatens the health of the people of this summer residence area of the Province of Bakhtaran.

The city of Karand has a population of 14,000, and its drinking water is piped from the Sarab-e Karand spring, which is near this district.

The lieutenant governor and the health officials of Karand-e Gharb consider the pollution level of the drinking water of this city to be 100 percent. According to tests results, the rate of pollution of this water with microbes is 1,100.

The source of the drinking water pollution in the city of Karand-e Gharb is the reservoir located three meters away from the kitchen of a military unit in that region. According to local officials, food waste and sewage from the kitchen are seeping into the water reservoir.

On the other hand, this reservoir lacks the necessary protection devices and its pollution by various microbes is inevitable.

This is while Karand-e Gharb has the best climatic condition in the Province of Bakhtaran, and its underground and mountain water resources are quite significant.

Measures Needed To Counter Air Pollution Dangers

92WN0341A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] Necessary steps must be rapidly taken to counter the dangers due to air inversion.

News service

Along with winter and the increase in Tehran air pollution due to the use of heaters, the central office of the Environmental Protection Agency of Tehran Province published an announcement asking the people to avoid polluting the city air as much as possible.

The text of the announcement of the central Environmental Protection Agency of the Province of Tehran is as follows:

Once again with the start of the cold season, we are witnessing the increase in air pollution in the city of Tehran on most days, particularly with the occurrence of the natural phenomenon of inversion or the change in air quality. Under such conditions any irresponsible action will worsen the air pollution; as a result, to protect their health and that of the urban society, all citizens and officials of production, service and guild units are hereby urged to take immediate steps to effectively correct any deficiencies in the heating systems of their buildings or their units. Also, all citizens must strictly avoid the burning of leaves, wood byproducts, and rubber which are creating smoke and pollution. Because traffic, that is, cars, especially those with mechanical problems which cause them to emit smoke throughout the city, is one of the major sources of air pollution, the owners and drivers of vehicles, whether government or private, are asked to limit their traveling in the city of Tehran and, if possible during these days, to use their cars less and thereby not to contribute in making the air of the city more polluted.

Ways To Counter Dangers Resulting From Inversion

During the days when such conditions are predicted, to prevent possible harm and damage and relatively eliminate the dangers of air pollution, with the help of Tehran citizens, the newspapers and the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to counter the dangers resulting from it, with long-term actions in regards to the city of Tehran and appropriate solutions, such as minimum use of vehicles and smoke-producing equipment or in more critical circumstances restriction of traffic, the temporary closure of some large air-polluting production units and even announcing the closure of schools at the levels of elementary and junior high school and the use of oxygen masks for the elderly and the infirm and other preventative actions must be taken. As long-term solutions, changing the fuel into natural gas, preventing the expansion of townships around Tehran, expanding green areas around Tehran, and making full use of air filters in all production units and heating equipment in the city of Tehran can be mentioned as measures to weaken the inversion process and eliminate pollution.

Hygiene, Treatment, Consultation Center Inaugurated

92AS06650 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Jan 92 p 15

[Text] Kashan—SALAM correspondent—A student health care, treatment, and consultation center was inaugurated and put into operation at Kashan Teacher Training University during a fancy ceremony attended by the deputy governor, the chief of the medical university and the health care and treatment network, the chief of the Kashan Teacher Training University, and officials from the municipality's offices and organizations.

At these ceremonies, Sharif, president of Kashan Teacher Training University, welcomed those present and thanked and praise all officials and insiders who helped with the establishment of this health care center.

Mass Marriage Ceremony Way to Keep Cost Low

92AS0723Q London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The market for group marriages in Iran has become very hot and after two mass marriages that were held recently in Tehran and Rasht, last week 28 young girls and boys were married in the city of Rey in a joint ceremony. A group of officials from the city of Rey and their guests took part in the ceremonies marrying these 14 couples. Hojjat ol-Islam Ghoyuri presented gifts from Mehdi Khamene'i to the brides and grooms. Mass marriages of this type are being encouraged by the Islamic Republic and generally the hezbollahis or those who have received "instructions" from the regime are willing to share their marriage ceremonies with others. The general poverty and the high cost of weddings are other reasons why some young people are agreeing to this type of marriage.

IRNA To Set Up Office in Baku

92AS0722B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 29 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] BAKU (IRNA)—Managing Director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Hussein Nassiri Wednesday discussed the projected opening here of an IRNA office, with the prime minister of Azerbaijan republic, Hassan Hassanov.

Hassanov expressed pleasure with the project and agreed to make every necessary arrangement in order that IRNA may set up an office here shortly.

Nassiri is part of Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's mission to the Caucasus to mediate an end to the clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Agreement Signed To Promote Persian Language

92AS0722A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 22 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—Iran, Tajikistan and the representatives of the Afghan Mujahideen here Wednesday signed an agreement to establish an association of Persian language speakers with the idea of expanding Persian in the Asian states.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati who signed the agreement for Iran said Wednesday that the association would pave the way for the establishment of a joint academy by Iran, Afghanistan and the Central Asian states.

He noted that the three countries shared historical and cultural identities which should be exploited in the interest of their mutual relations.

A second meeting, he said, would be held in Tajikistan and a third in Afghanistan if the general conditions in the latter country allowed.

The agreement was signed by the foreign ministers of Iran and Tajikistan, and by the leader of the Jamiat Islami Afghanistan Burhaneddin Rabbani.

The secretariat of the association will be in Tehran. The next meeting of the assembly will be in Dushanbe of Tajikistan in the spring of 1992.

Hundreds of Parcels of Land Turned Over to Applicants

92AS0665S Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Jan 92 p 15

[Text] Amol—SALAM correspondent—During a fancy ceremony attended by Engineer Tabataba'i, deputy minister of housing and urban construction, Engineer Ja'fari, general manager of urban lands for Mazandaran Province, Hoseyni, governor, Sadeqlu, mayor, Amol's land and city official, and a group of administrative officials and organizations, 595 parcels of land were turned over to applicants lacking housing and land in this city.

During this ceremony the general manager of urban lands of Mazandaran Province spoke about the lands in the province's green belt and noted that they are among the most important agricultural centers and that they are effective and useful factors in achieving self-sufficiency for the vital rice crop in the country. He added: Currently, in view of the fact that the rich lands of this province are considered some of the most productive agricultural lands in our country, and based on our country's general need for agricultural products, while in order to meet the needs of the landless and homeless people, henceforth apartment building will be one of the main programs of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. We have therefore begun building apartments in the city of Amol, and we will soon benefit from its expected results. In conclusion he praised and thanked the district and city officials and the Amol Deeds and Registry Office, who provided the necessary assistance for the land transfer. He said: Of the 595 existing parcels of land, 300 which had been previously sold have been turned over to landless applicants and qualified government employees, 65 parcels have been turned over to families of martyrs, 154 parcels to former prisoners of war, 15 parcels to municipal alternates, 17 parcels to deprived members of the Imam's aid committee, 14 parcels to handicapped patients, and more than 210,400 square meters have been allocated for building health care, exercise and educational centers, and a mosque.

Over 800 Prisoners Participate in Literacy Classes

92AS0665I Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Jan 92 p 15

[Text] Ahvaz—SALAM correspondent—The result of criminology research and investigation undertaken by the Khuzestan Central Office of Prisons has proven that one of the factors in criminal activity is ignorance and illiteracy, and the best way to prevent crime is to uproot illiteracy and to raise the level of education and training of the various people in society. This statement was made by Sarami, general manager of the Khuzestan Central Office of Prisons, who added: Understanding the above and based on the concern shown by the educational deputy's precinct of the Khuzestan Central Office of Prisons, with the cooperation

of the literacy crusade, in the last year and a half 861 prisoners have taken elementary classes and 110 prisoners have taken advanced classes inside the prisons of Khuzestan. Of this number, 602 people received certificates in the elementary and advanced classes.

The general manager of the Khuzestan Central Office of Prisons went on to say: In view of the fact that before receiving their graduation papers, and for various reasons, such as completing their sentences or commutations, countless numbers of these individuals have been released. In special ceremonies, 192 prisoners were given passing certificates from the elementary class and 34 were given passing certificates from the advanced class. He said that one of the

methods used effectively to encourage illiterate prisoners to learn was the granting of privileges such as personal visits, leaves of absence, or the use of conditional release.

He also noted that to make use of potential talents and to spread literacy among the prisoners, three types of qualified, penitent prisoners were used, the soldiers from the general service duty section of the National Organization of Prisons, and students in the province literacy crusade. Together, they have been able to teach literacy to this large number of prisoners by holding 37 continuous term classes at various hours. It is hoped that with their behavioral reform we will see their return to the warm embrace of society and their families.

Reconstruction Projects Become Operational in Gilan *92AS0718B Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Feb 92 p 15*

[Text] Rudsar: IRNA—On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, several development projects became operational on Monday throughout the city of Rudsar.

The electricity outreach project became operational in the village of Tushehmian by the Jihad of the city of Rudsar, at a cost of 26 million rials, and 60 village families received electricity.

This project was carried out with the help of the people. Also, the water outreach project to the villages of Marv and Bargeh of Dasht-e Ashkurat of Rudsar, with 15 million rials in funds, and serving 150 families in those villages, was completed. Health centers totaling 240 square meters for the villages of Saravarsi and Mersi, with 19 million rials in funds from the reconstruction funds of the earthquake regions and the Foundation, which will also service 10 villages in the area, were inaugurated in the city of Rudsar. Also, the health center in the village of Gorgrud, budgeted from the 2 percent of the income derived from fresh tea leaves, serving 500 rural families, became operational on the same occasion.

The rural committee of the 10 Days of Dawn headquarters of the Province of Gilan announced: Also, on the 3rd day of the 10 Days of Dawn, nine rural development projects, including electricity outreach, water outreach, treatment centers, and road building, became operational in Shaft of Langrud, Lahijan, Masal, Khamam, Talesh, Astara, and Rahimabad.

On the same occasion, Monday, an exhibition of handicrafts by school students of Gilan Province was held in the electricity hall of the city of Rasht. Various scientific and artistic handicrafts exhibits were open to the public until the end of the 10 Days of Dawn.

Pharmaceutical Plant Operational in Tabriz *92AS0718K Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 26 Feb 92 p 10*

[Text] Tabriz—KEYHAN correspondent—1 Esfand-21 February—The largest and best equipped pharmaceutical factory in the west of the country was inaugurated with the attendance of the minister of industries in Tabriz.

During the opening ceremonies, the director general of the pharmaceutical factory in the west of the country said: The Zahravi pharmaceutical complex of Tabriz has been built on 12 hectares of land, with 24,000 square meters under construction, at a cost of 6,000,500,000 rials. In addition to providing part of the pharmaceutical needs of the country, it will save the country \$30 million in foreign currency every year.

Computerized Production of Heavy Tools in Khorasan *92AS0718J Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 26 Feb 92 p 10*

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—27 Bahman-16 February—The operation to produce the computerized machine complex for heavy tools in Khorasan began with funds amounting to 42 billion rials on 200 hectares of land.

Engineer Cheragh, the official in charge of the plan to build this complex, said: The first phase of the complex for the computerized production machine for heavy tool factories, which includes four main units for the production of computerized (ferez), turnery, center and stone machines, will be operational by the end of next year.

He added: This plan, in addition to the main units, will have supporting units of production line for computer system for three systems of gears, gear box, sheet work, prismatic, and special tool manufacturing and ball (eskronism) machines [as published].

He also said: With the start of the operations of this complex, 1,500 computerized machines will be produced annually, resulting in savings in foreign currency totaling \$260 million.

According to the official in charge of the plan, 3,500 skilled and semi-skilled experts are supposed to be employed in this complex.

Also, a specialized school for the training of 120 persons in every course, a 50-bed hospital, a 120-room hotel, sports arenas, cafeterias, and other facilities will be built for the employees of this complex.

Moghan Hide Factory's Exports Up 350 Percent *92AS0718I Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 26 Feb 92 p 10*

[Text] Ardabil—IRNA—28 Bahman-17 February—Since the beginning of this year, \$6 million worth of leather has been exported from the Moghan Hide Factory of Ardabil to other countries, which, compared to last year, reflects an increase of about 350 percent.

This was announced by Moghan Hide, who said: It is projected that by the end of the year [20 March 1992], the level of exports of various kinds of leather in that factory will reach \$7 million. He added: This unit produces annually a million hides of various kinds of leather, of which 50 percent is exported.

Also, pointing out that this year the Moghan Hide Factory has been recognized as an exemplary unit in the Province of Eastern Azarbaijan, he said: The plan to develop this factory to a capacity of 500,000 hides annually, with funds amounting to 400 million rials, will be implemented next year.

It should be pointed out that the Moghan Hide Factory of Ardabil was established with the participation of the Industries and Mines and Agriculture Banks since 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] and at present this unit produces 400 hides for clothing, linings, shoes, bags, (kerem), and (keraset) per day for domestic and foreign markets.

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